



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®
MAGAZINE

THE STONE COLD "KLIQ"

AND OTHER
PREDICTIONS
FOR 1997

1997

JANUARY 1997

\$3.50 U.S. \$4.50 CANADA
PRINTED IN U.S.A.



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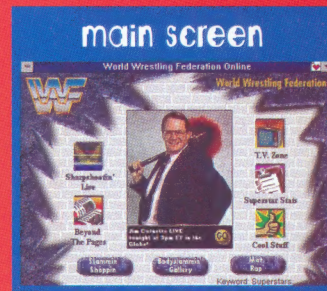
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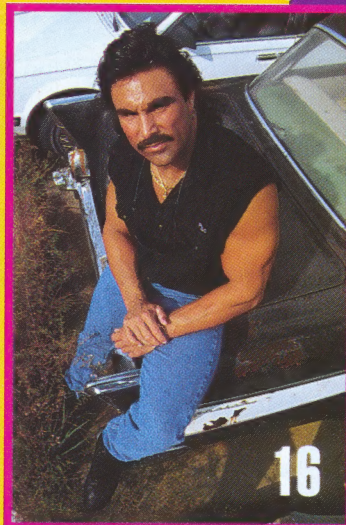
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CAN YOU GUESS THE SECRET SUPERSTAR

*This month's Secret Superstar's favorite movie
is "The Mighty Ducks"!*



HINTS:

1. As a child, this month's Secret Superstar considered ICE his favorite after-school snack!
2. Checkers and Candyland just weren't this month's Secret Superstar's style—he preferred to SMASH people's faces into the BOARDS!
3. This month's Secret Superstar wasn't punished with a spanking or loss of dessert while growing up—he went straight to the penalty box!
4. In high school, this month's Secret Superstar's GOAL was to graduate with the most penalty minutes on his hockey team!

THE SECRET SUPERSTAR IS: _____

ANSWER ON PAGE 64



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION®
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World Wrestling Federation Magazine, The Official Publication of the World Wrestling Federation (ISSN 8756-7792, USPS 720-450) is published monthly by TitanSports, Inc., 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902, and published in Canada by Titan Promotions Inc. (GST No. R121896385), 2 Lansing Square, Suite 502, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada M2J 4P8. Basic subscription rates are \$24 for 12 issues and \$35 for 24 issues for U.S. and U.S. possessions. Canadian rates are \$43 for 12 issues and \$68 for 24 issues including 7% GST. Foreign rates are \$38.40 for 12 issues and \$70.80 for 24 issues. ALL ORDERS ARE PAYABLE IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. NO FOREIGN CREDIT ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Periodical Postage paid at Stamford, CT, and other additional mailing offices. Third-Class Mail Enclosed. All editions applicable. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION MAGAZINE, Post Office Box 420172, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0172. Printed by R.R. Donnelley & Sons, Mattoon, Illinois Manufacturing Division. Distributed by Kable News Company Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. © World Wrestling Federation, its logo, WrestleMania and all other distinctive titles and names used herein are trademarks of TitanSports, Inc. The Ultimate Warrior is the trademark of Ultimate Creations, Inc., licensed to TitanSports, Inc. The entire contents of this publication are copyright 1996 by TitanSports, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Nothing in this issue may be reproduced in any manner without the express written consent of TitanSports, Inc. TitanSports, Inc., is not responsible for unsolicited material sent to us.

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World Wrestling Federation Magazine

FANatics



Name: Aliesha Kramer

Age: 12

Hometown: Benton, Illinois

Grade: Seventh

Future Ambition: To be a writer or an actress

Favorite Federation Superstar: Shawn Michaels

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: Marty Jannetty

What I like best about the World Wrestling Federation:

The awesome live events and Monday Night RAW

If I were president of the World Wrestling Federation, I would:

Let Shawn Michaels try to win all the titles!

What I do when I'm not watching the

World Wrestling Federation: I like to ride my bike and hang out with my friends.



Name: Richard Nusko

Age: 10

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois

School: Kenzie Elementary School

Grade: Fourth

Future Ambition: To become a firefighter

Favorite Federation Superstar: The Undertaker

Least Favorite Federation Superstar: British Bulldog

What I like best about the World Wrestling

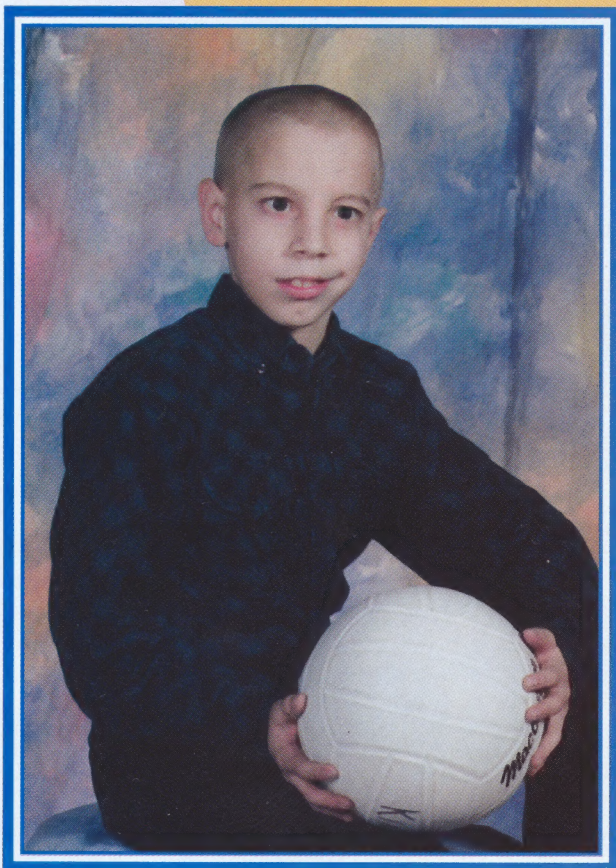
Federation: Watching the annual Slammy Awards!

If I were president of the World Wrestling

Federation, I would: Kick Goldust out of the Federation!

What I do when I'm not watching the World

Wrestling Federation: I play basketball and watch Power Rangers ZEO!



QUESTIONS, Comments

There is no time limit!!

World Wrestling Federation Magazine Interactive is a no-time-limit, no-holds-barred, communicative channel where you can connect with the Federation any day or night in order to bodyslam us with your opinions and views! We've opened up the ring ropes to offer you many lines of communication. Whether it be by fax, phone, E-mail or post office, our cauliflower ears are open to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! So, don't be a ham-n-egger!!! Spill your ideas, and voice your opinions—WE WANT TO HEAR 'EM!

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WRITE us at:
World Wrestling Federation Magazine,
c/o Vince Russo, Editor,
P.O. Box 3859,
Stamford, CT 06905.

E-mail:



Dear Editor,
After reading the article on Stone Cold Steve Austin in the November magazine, I would like to ask just what is wrong with President Gorilla Monsoon? It was my understanding that the winner of the *King of the Ring* gets an automatic shot at the Federation Title! I agree that Stone Cold keeps getting put on the "back burner" by Monsoon. Stone Cold is the REAL DEAL, and he deserves his shot at glory!

Mark Lelinwalla
ERMAK2099@JUNO.COM

Dear Mark,
Even though I agree with your comments, nowhere is it etched in stone (pardon the pun) that the *King of the Ring* winner gets an automatic title shot at the World Wrestling Federation Champion. HOWEVER, there is no doubt in my mind that Stone Cold will have his day in the sun!

Letter:



Dear Editor,
Hey, I love reading all the articles every month in the magazine, but I was wondering one thing: In past years, the Slammy Awards have honored the year-end achievements of the superstars of the Federation. Now I ask you, why not have some year-end awards for the various articles in the magazine? You guys could hold your own little version of the Slammys at the end of the year!

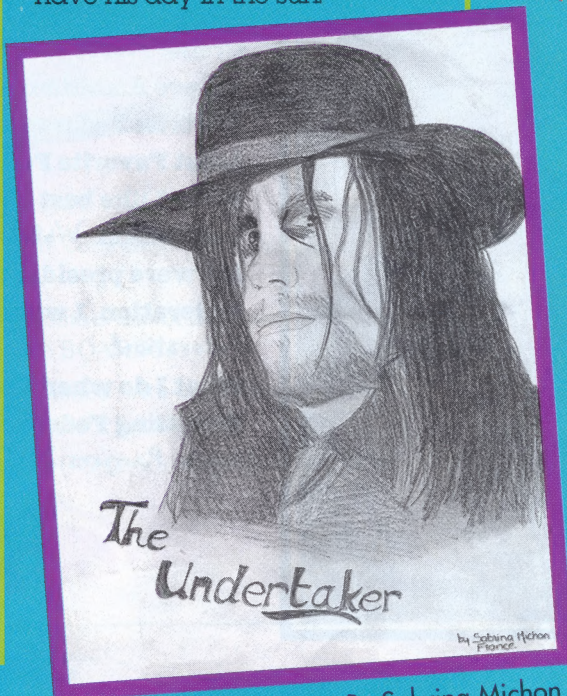
Buck Minor
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Buck,
Great idea, but according to cub-writer Bill Banks, there isn't a trophy case that would be big enough to hold all his would-be awards!!!

FAX:



Dear Editor,
I was reading "The Bite" by Vic Venom in the November issue of the magazine, and he could well be the worst journalist I've ever read! How dare Vic talk about Jim Cornette like that! Cornette came to *SummerSlam* with one thing on his mind—and that was getting the Federation Title! James E. has managed many men to gold in his day, but I ask you, what have you—Vic Venom—done? I would just LOVE to see you



By Sabrina Michon

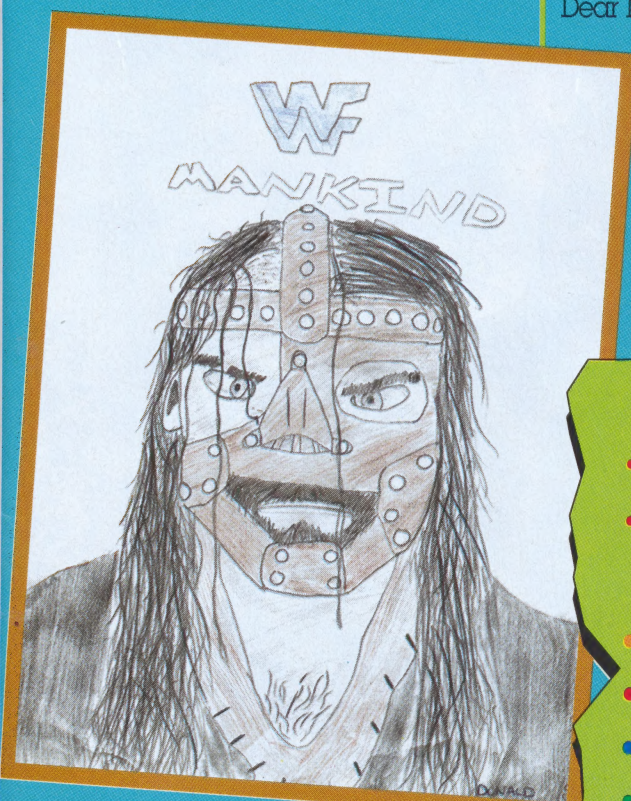
MENTS AND GOSSIP

INTERACTIN' WITH THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

manage in the World Wrestling Federation, just so I could see your lack of knowledge for the sport! Long live Cornette!

Mike J. Wilson
Boston, MA

Dear Mike,
GET YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE SAND!!! HOW MANY FEDERATION CHAMPIONS HAS JAMES E. CORNETTE MANAGED? ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS—NONE!!! ZERO!!! GOOSE EGG!!! OBVIOUSLY YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION BECAUSE I DOUBT YOU CAN COUNT THAT HIGH—GET A LIFE!!! VENOM



By Donald Crawford

E-mail:



Dear Editor,
I am so disappointed that Paul Bearer turned his back on the Undertaker. I mean, six years... and Paul threw it all in the trash! The bond between those two men used to scare other superstars stiff! What can Mankind do for Paul Bearer that the Man from the Dark Side couldn't? Absolutely nothing! When all is said and done, the Undertaker will bury Mankind and Paul Bearer will wish he had never turned on the Phenom.

Muhammad Amir
mamir@direct.ca

Dear Muhammad,

I guess what you are saying is that it doesn't look like many more "nice" days are ahead for Mankind and his keeper!!! You know what? I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT!!!

Letter:



Dear Editor,
After reading "Rookies to Legends" in the November issue, I was wondering just when Crush is going to get an Intercontinental Title shot? The Kona native has literally been kicking the tar out of his opponents lately, and I'm sure Clarence Mason could use his legal knowledge to get it for him! Surely the "jailbird", as Federation fans continue to call him, would be one of the most feared Intercontinental Champions of all time if the Federation gave him a crack at winning it.

Martin J. Loughlin
Hartford, CT

Dear Martin,

I couldn't agree with you more. In my opinion, Crush is one of the most underrated superstars in the World Wrestling Federation and before the jury returns, Clarence Mason may very well have him sporting a Federation belt around his waist!

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Rookies to LEGENDS

HEROES OF YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Just a week after the 1996 *Royal Rumble*, Clarence Mason first gained notoriety in the Federation when the Man They Call Vader attacked Federation President Gorilla Monsoon on *Monday Night RAW* and found himself sorely in need of a legal advisor to help bail him out of a severe suspension. After being officially hired by Vader's manager, James E. Cornette, Mason immediately threatened legal action against the Federation, eventually succeeding in getting Vader reinstated.

Months later, Mason struck again at May's *In Your House* when he served Champion Shawn Michaels with legal papers moments before his title defense against the British Bulldog, stating that he had attempted to "emotionally assault" the Dog's wife Diana. After a controversial ending to the

match, Monsoon ushered an angry Mason and Diana Smith from ringside. Nothing out of the ordinary was apparent... until the next day!

The following evening on *RAW*, Mason appeared, sporting a neck

brace—an injury he claimed to have suffered at the hands of Monsoon! The attorney said that while walking down the runway with Gorilla, the president physically assaulted him! Clarence issued another ultimatum to Monsoon—he wanted a rematch between Michaels and the Bulldog at June's *King of the Ring*... and he got it!

Somewhere between June 23 and *SummerSlam*, however, the legal relationship between Mason and Cornette came to a screeching halt after Mason attempted to get a managerial license in order to bring Crush

back to the Federation.

At *SummerSlam*, the plot thickened when Mason appeared ringside during the matches involving the British Bulldog and Owen Hart. Moving as fast as he could, Cornette burst onto the scene—finally questioning Mason's motives.

Finally, the fatal dagger to Cornette's camp came at September's *In Your House* when an "emotionally beaten and distressed" Jim Cornette (thanks to Jose Lothario) unwittingly signed away the managerial rights of Owen and the Bulldog to his once trusted attorney. **WF**



◦ CLARENCE MASON ◦

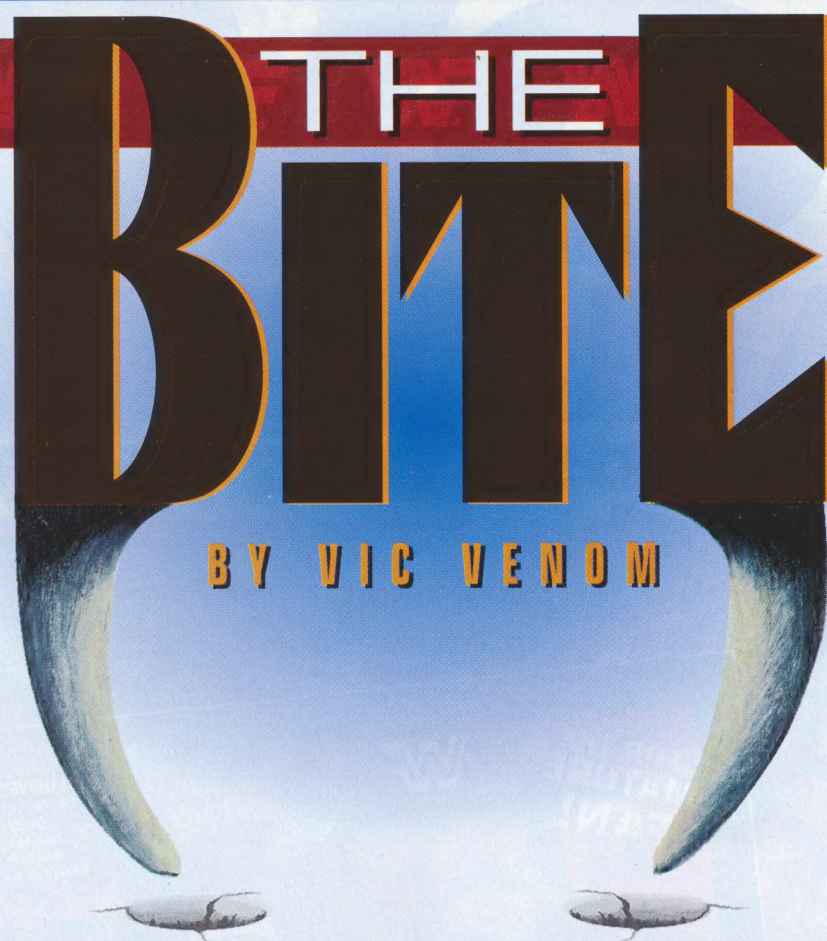
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WORLD
WRESTLING
FEDERATION'S
RAW MAGAZINE

THE BITE

BY VIC VENOM



WARNING!!! THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS COMMENTARY ARE NOT—IN ANY WAY, SHAPE OR FORM—THOSE OF THE WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION OR TITAN SPORTS.

PERFECT MY @#\$!!!

I've gotta tell you something. For a long time I truly believed that Mr. Perfect was "THE" world-class athlete. I honestly thought that he, along with Bret Hart, best exemplified what a "REAL" modern-day warrior represented. Two second-generation legends who both honored this great sport and made me proud—EXTREMELY PROUD—to be a part of it!

HOWEVER, that was THEN... and this is NOW. Today, I think Mr. Perfect is nothing more than a spineless has-been, living on past glory. As sister Janet Jackson once said, "PERFECT... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?!"

I, like everyone else, sat there for the ENTIRE month of October and watched as Curt Hennig got in just about every-

one's face!!! From the cheap threats to the false promises, all he was concerned about was reminding everyone what a great athlete he was, or at least... USED TO BE. But for the "Gospel According to Perfect", words soon weren't

enough. At October's Buried Alive, Hennig proceeded with his speeches of greatness further, as he physically challenged just about anything wearing trunks. Did I say "CHALLENGED"? No—saying that would be far too generous. Let's just say that Perfect COLD-COCKED, SUCKER-PUNCHED and JUMPED-FROM-BEHIND those who weren't smart enough not to take their eyes off him!

Now don't get me wrong. Those actions could be condoned if the individual was indeed prepared to one day meet his unsuspecting victims—FACE TO FACE—in the middle of the ring... but Perfect NEVER had any intention of doing that. At



no time did he EVER plan to climb back into the squared circle. It was all a work—a plot designed in his devious, perhaps PERFECT mind!!!

So, CURT, what does it all prove? That you WERE ONCE a supreme athlete in this sport? Nobody is denying that. But, brother, in 1996—YOU'RE A HAS-BEEN!!! You hide behind that big-time Lloyds of London insurance policy much the same way the smallest, cheap-shooting guard hides behind the 7-foot, 300-pound center! Like the thumb-sucking Linus, you have your security blanket. Anytime you feel threatened, you conveniently drag it out. "What da ya mean? I can't wrestle. I'm still injured." Man, have you sunk to the lowest low!

What's my point? My point is this: either put up or take a step over and accept what is... simply as what is. That being that you, my friend, have been there, done that... BUT won't be doing it again, or should I say, CAN'T do it again.

Enjoy your retirement, and play 18 for me. **W**

In a mystical land far away, the ancient S
 "I CALL FOR A great TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD. Let us see



Karate FIGHTERS

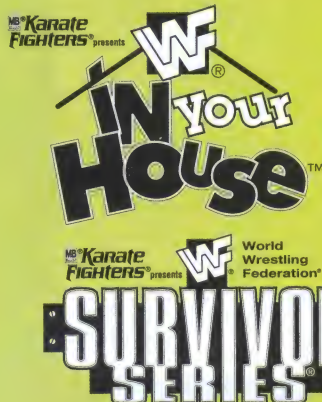
From October 21st through December 16th, an eight week Milton Bradley Karate Fighters Holiday Tournament will take place between select World Wrestling Federation Superstars. These Federation Superstars will compete using the awesome new line of Karate Fighters called Electronic Karate Fighters. Eight Federation Superstars will compete against each other and only the best Karate Fighter will survive the competition. Watch the World Wrestling Federation on USA Network, WGN Network, your local television station, or check out the World Wrestling Federation area on America Online for more details and updates.

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SUPERSTAR (A)



SUPERSTAR (B)



SUPERSTAR (C)



SUPERSTAR (D)



SUPERSTAR (E)




SUPERSTAR (F)



SUPERSTAR (G)



SUPERSTAR (H)

ensei calls his disciples before him. He says,
who is the greatest KARATE FIGHTER of all the 

October 21 - December 16, 1996

Holiday Tournament

SATURDAY @ 9 AM Blast Off on the WGN Network
SATURDAY @ 10 AM Live Wire on the USA Network
SATURDAY/SUNDAY Challenge (check your local listing)
SUNDAY @ 11 AM Superstars on the USA Network
MONDAY @ 8:57 PM Monday Night RAW on the USA Network

Below is a grid you can fill out to keep track of the winners in this exciting Karate Fighters Holiday Tournament.



HEADstone

Headstone really likes to throw his weight around. With his rock head and stone skin, this mutant enjoys smashing everything in his path to bits.

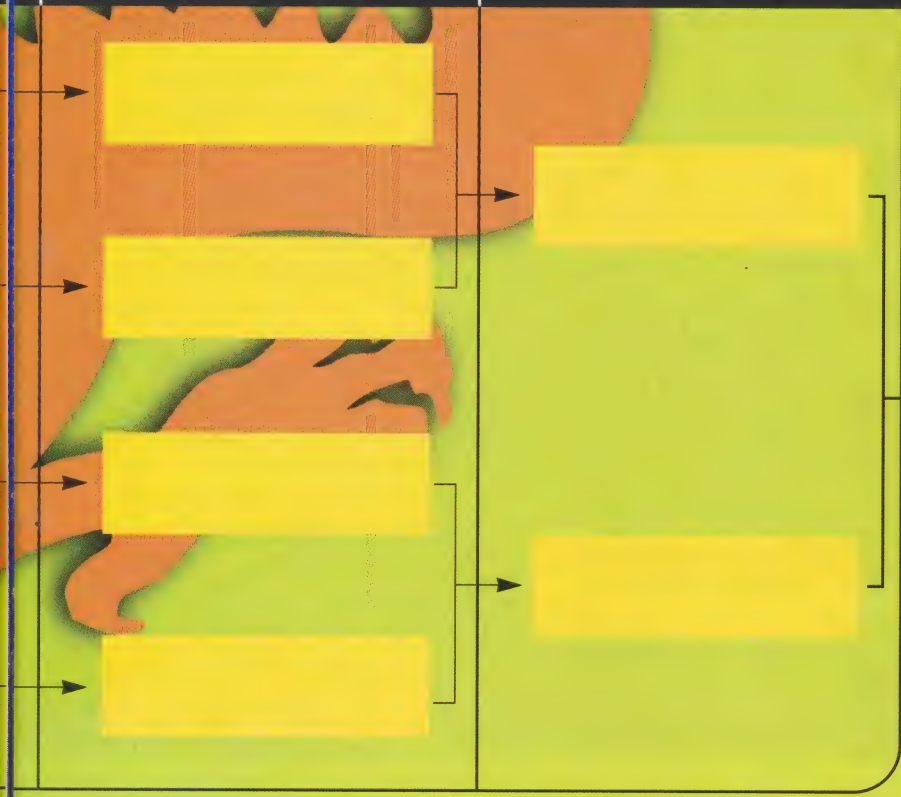
A no-nonsense martial arts instructor, Tiger Ninja is a fierce, cunning fighter who quickly gains the upper "claw" over his opponents.

TiGERNiNja

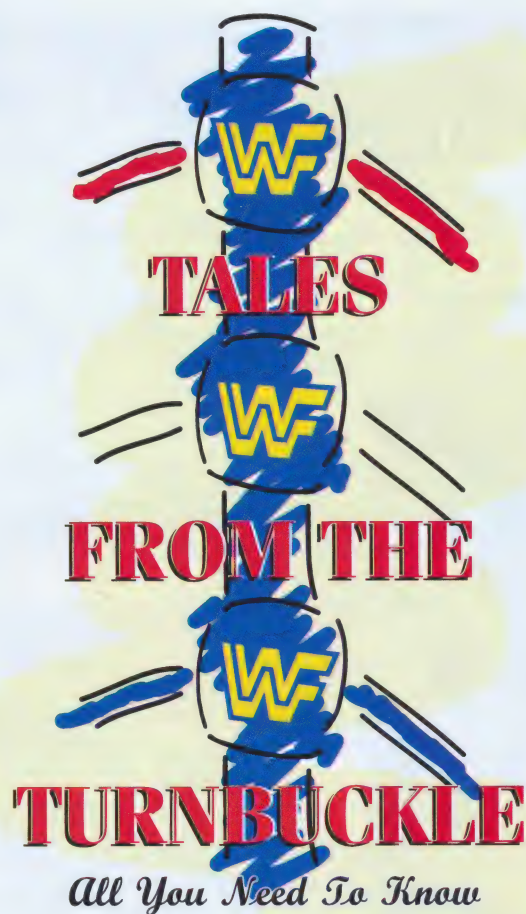


SEMI-FINALS

FINALS



MILTON BRADLEY
KARATE FIGHTERS
WORLD CHAMPION



quote of the month

“ ”

“You were great in *Deliverance*, but you SUCK on *Live Wire*!”

— Vic Venom, confronting James E. Cornette on *Live Wire*

Mr. Bob Backlund, current manager of The Sultan, was once a wrestling teacher at Central Connecticut State College! Boy, do we feel sorry for THOSE students!

YOU
DON'T SAY

A “PERFECT” TITLE VICTORY FOR HUNTER!

This past October on a *Monday Night RAW*, the long-awaited return of Mr. Perfect was supposed to take place in front of a nationwide television audience. Instead, a new Intercontinental Champion was crowned that night, and the Wildman Marc Mero will never forget how he was stabbed in the back!

The series of unpredictable events first began with Perfect “supposedly” getting injured while preparing for his match against the Greenwich Snob. Moments later when his music filled the arena, instead of the “Perfect” entrance, out came Federation president Gorilla Monsoon along with a “limping” Curt Hennig. The president stated that because of an injury suffered by the Perfect One, he would not allow the former Intercontinental Champion to compete! Perfect, seemingly upset, accepted Monsoon’s decision, but then claimed he had a replacement on his behalf—then IC Champ Mero!

At first, the match between the Wildman and Hunter was not sanctioned as a title bout, but after some egging on by the Greenwich Snob, Mero agreed—after all, he was on a roll and he had the “Perfect” advisor in his corner... or so he thought. As both men executed some amazing offensive maneuvers at each other’s expense, Hennig stood at ringside praising Mero in his quest to defeat Helmsley.

Then, in a moment that shocked Federation fans, the unthinkable happened. After the referee was knocked cold, Hunter walked out of the ring and grabbed a chair from a fan. He folded it up, pulled his arms back and was ready to whack Mero—UNTIL Perfect grabbed the chair! Fans and officials thought Curt would rap Helmsley with it, but he turned around and smashed the metal into the Wildman’s cranium. After Helmsley pinned Mero, the new Intercontinental Champion and Hennig celebrated the win! The world finally knew—this was a “Perfect Hoax” by the two ALL ALONG!

Ladies and gentlemen... your new Intercontinental Champion—Hunter Hearst-Helmsley!



Big Bang Boom ON TOUR



January

- 3 San Diego, CA
- 4 Stockton, CA
- 5 Los Angeles, CA
- 6 Fresno, CA
- 10 San Jose, CA
- 11 Anaheim, CA
- 12 Las Vegas, NV
- 13 El Paso, TX
- 19 San Antonio, TX
(Royal Rumble)
- 20 Beaumont, TX
(RAW)
- 21 Lafayette, LA
- 22 Dallas, TX
- 23 Oklahoma City, OK
- 24 Hershey, PA
- 25 MSG, NYC
- 26 Philadelphia, PA
- 31 Toronto, Ontario, CN



February

- 1 Quebec, Quebec, CN
- 2 Montreal, Quebec, CN
- 2 Ottawa, Ontario, CN
- 7 Pittsburgh, PA
- 8 Bethlehem, PA
- 9 E. Rutherford, NJ
- 10 Newark, DE

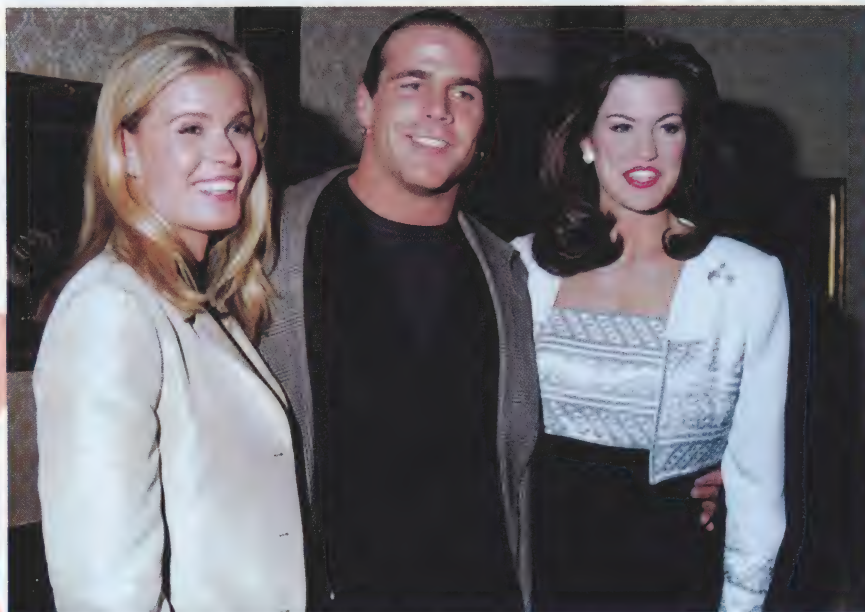
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All bills
should be
sent to:

W December *In Your House*
P.O. Box 3857
Stamford, CT 06902

WHO'S THAT GUY WITH MISS AMERICA?



This past September, the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels was one of the distinguished few to congratulate the 1996 Miss America—Kansas beauty Tara Dawn Holland—at her VERY FIRST public appearance since winning the crown!

Shawn joined celebrities such as Holland (to Shawn's left) and world-renowned supermodel Vendela Kirsebom for a prestigious ceremony held at the beauti-

ful Hotel Intercontinental in New York City that was to kick off National UNICEF Month. This joyous celebration marked the 50th year that UNICEF has been helping children from all parts of the world with necessities such as food, clothing, medicine and anything else that might be needed.

How did Shawn feel about meeting Miss America among others at the event?

"I may have met some grand

celebrities in my day," said the Heartbreak Kid, "but being one of the first to congratulate Tara was a great experience. It was a pleasure for the Heartbreak Kid to raise some money for a great organization like UNICEF. And hey... it didn't hurt to have two fine-looking ladies by my side for the night!"

The Boys Choir of Harlem was also on hand to entertain the guests!

TOP 5 REASONS

WHY JIM ROSS IS SUCH A DISGRUNTLED EMPLOYEE:

- 1 While all the other top "suits" of the World Wrestling Federation get limos to ride in on the road, good ol' J.R. always gets stuck having to ride with Howard Finkel in a rented 1973 station wagon.
- 2 During a Federation Pay-Per-View event, most employees get a corporate account to charge five-star dinners. The best Ross claims to have gotten were coupons for McDonald's Happy Meals.
- 3 After making rude comments on *Monday Night RAW* about past Federation superstars, both a plumber AND a clown toilet-papered his personal lavatory.
- 4 He can't prove it, but he KNOWS that Vince McMahon always has to be the "funny guy" who puts a toga in the Christmas grab bag every year.
- 5 At important business meetings, Federation officials always end a conversation by asking ol' J.R., "Would you please pass the jelly?"



FUNKADELIC!

When newcomer Flash Funk first made his debut in the Federation shortly after October's *In Your House*, fans and officials alike were perplexed by his appearance—a glitzy superstar who seemed as if he belonged on a dance floor rather than in the ring. But once the bell sounded, this man was all action! Don't let those feathery duds fool you for one minute! Flash is a man who is known worldwide as one of the most daring competitors our sport has ever seen, and he will risk the health of both YOUR body and HIS to get the pinfall. Many superstars may



claim to be high flyers—jumping off the ropes from time to time with a plain old dropkick—but to Funk, they are all just amateurs compared to his aerial acrobatics!

They may “talk the talk”, but Flash Funk... he “strutts the strut”!

Now that Flash has gotten his “dancing boots” scuffed up a bit against some of the Federation's best, he is ready to bring his airborne attack on tour with the other giants of the Federation. Without a doubt, Funk is going to light up arenas all across the country—and he may just bag some gold while doing it!

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION **PAY-PER** **1996-97** **VIEW**

December 15 *IN YOUR HOUSE*
West Palm Beach, FL

January 19 *ROYAL RUMBLE*
San Antonio, TX

February 16 *IN YOUR HOUSE*
Memphis, TN

how to order pay-per-view



Call your local cable company. Your cable operator will have specific information on how to order and the cost of each event. You can also check your last month's cable bill for a special ordering phone number for your system's pay-per-view events.

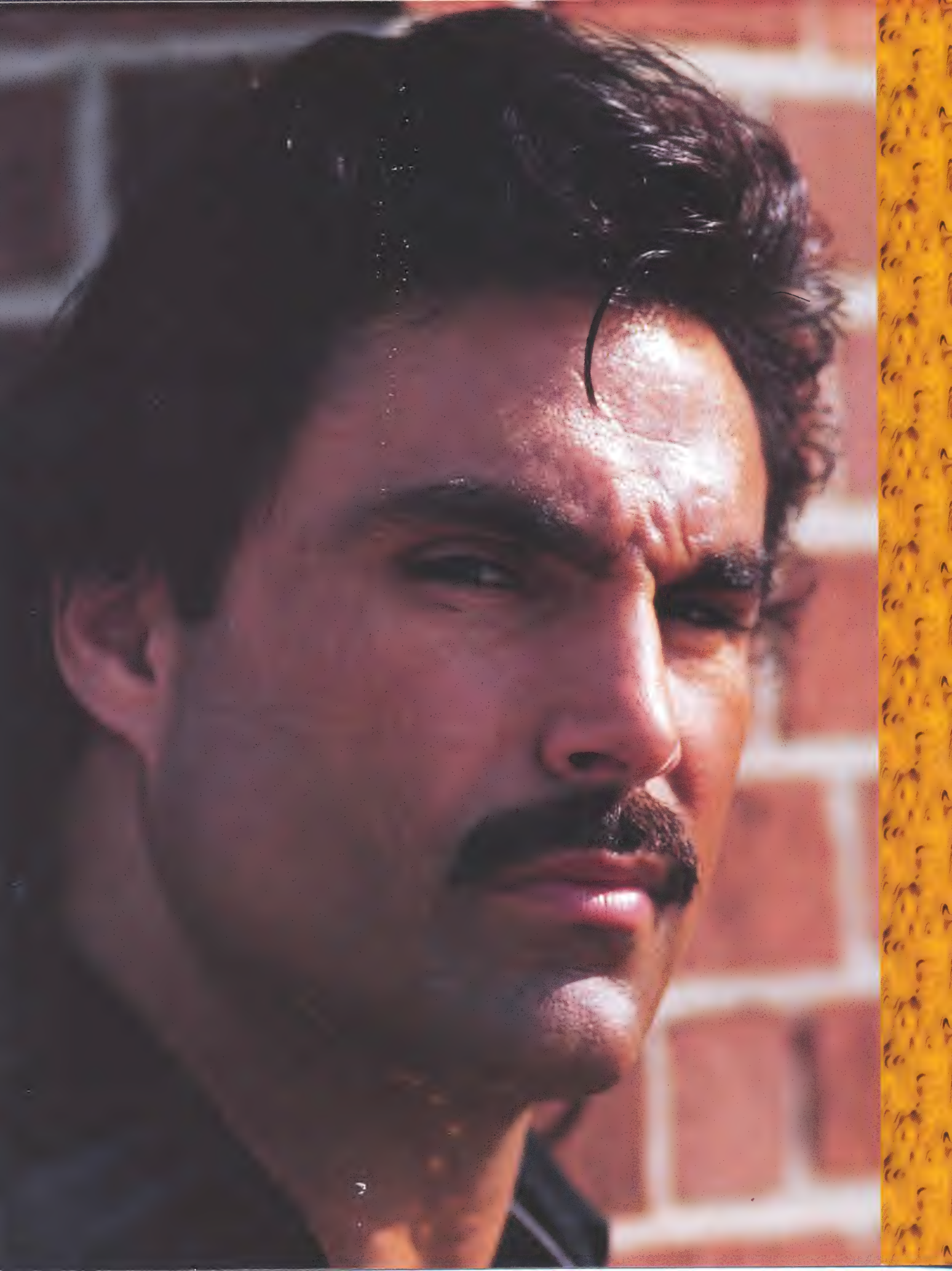
For satellite dish reception, via the larger C-Band dishes, call:

Prime Time 24
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For direct satellite reception, via the smaller KU-Band dishes, call:

Direct TV
1-800-347-3288

1) All events are on Sunday at 7pm ET. 2) Replays for all *In Your House* events at 9pm ET. 3) Replays for all five other events are at 10pm ET. 4) Encores for all five other events are the Tuesday following the event. The times of the encores are 8pm and 11pm ET.



MARC MERO

AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BY VINCE RUSSO

As we've heard before from many Federation athletes, the road to glory isn't always paved in glitter and gold. Many times there are severe prices to pay—and painful lessons to learn—in attempting to reach that elite status known as “superstardom”. Along the way, many come face to face with their own destiny. One wrong decision at any moment could turn that “field of dreams” into a “one-way road to hell”. Marc Mero almost drove down that road. For a good portion of his young adult life, he cruised down it every single day. Many times he stared death in the face and every time his instinct to survive dodged the bullet with his name on it. It took a savior, a living, breathing angel to guide Marc Mero and safely place him back on his “field of dreams”. Without her, there is no doubt in his mind that he wouldn't be alive today to tell this story... his story.

While reading this interview, remember, regardless of how many arenas they sell out, all Federation superstars weren't born “heroes to millions”. Many have pasts that they are not proud of and would just as soon forget. Marc Mero is one of those “superstars”. He did many things he wishes he hadn't in his lifetime, but what's

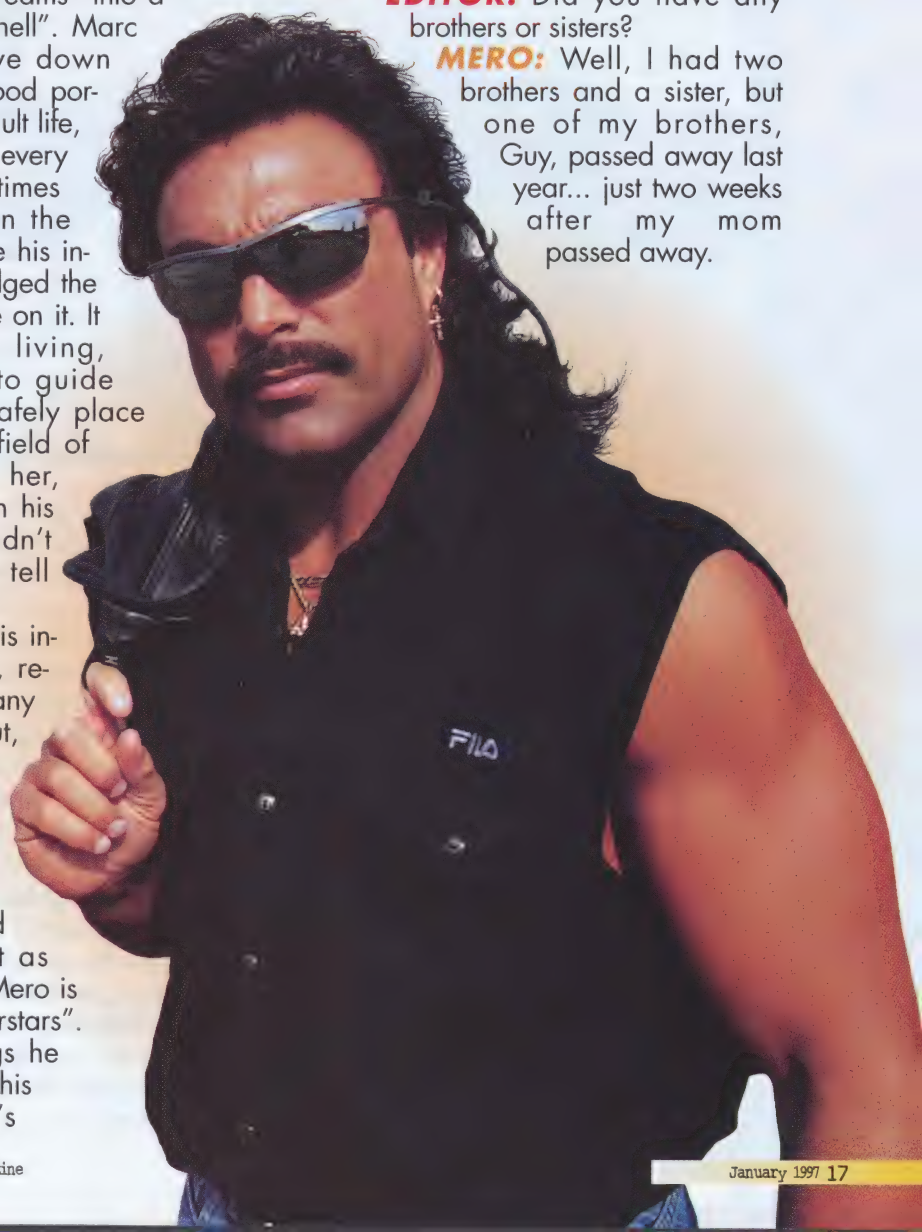
done is done. You just can't rewrite history. However, having survived his own personal hell, Mero can look you straight in the eye and say, “If I can do it... so can you.” That's why he granted this unforgettable interview.

EDITOR: There's only one place to start and that's the beginning. Where were you born?

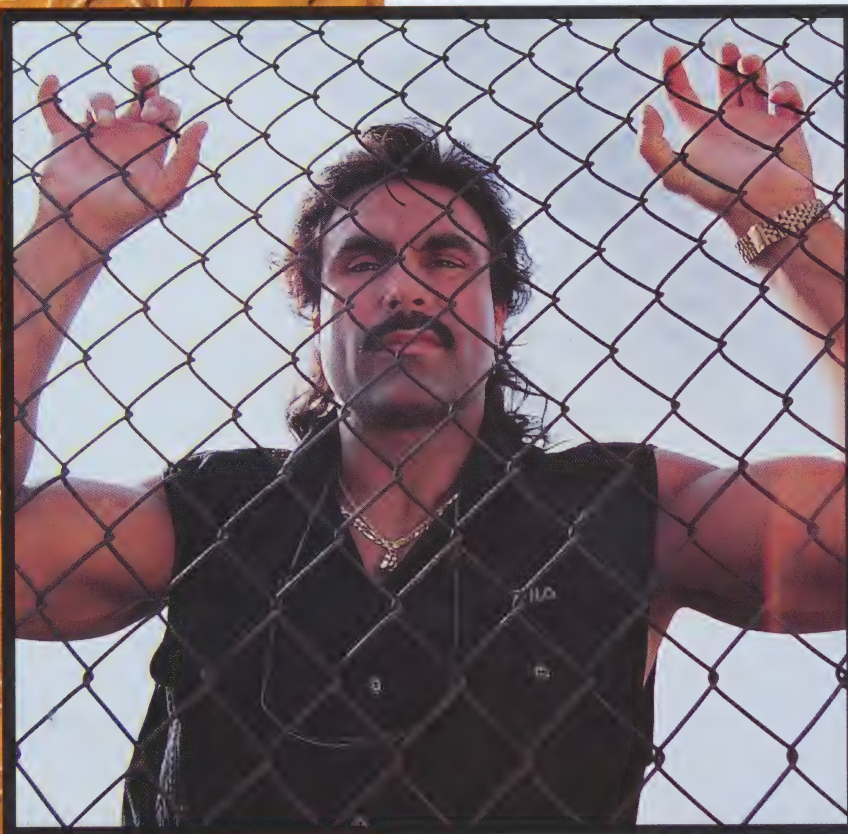
MERO: I was born in Buffalo, New York.

EDITOR: Did you have any brothers or sisters?

MERO: Well, I had two brothers and a sister, but one of my brothers, Guy, passed away last year... just two weeks after my mom passed away.



An Interview
With
Marc Mero



EDITOR: What were your parents like?

MERO: My dad was a private investigator and my mom was a housewife. We lived in a pretty nice section of Buffalo on the north side until I was eight years old. Then my parents divorced and we moved with my mother to a really bad, bad

EDITOR: During your childhood, what did you aspire to be?

MERO: Being that hockey was my first love when I was young—I started playing when I was 10 years old—I always wanted to be a professional hockey player.

EDITOR: Let's get into your teen years for a little bit. Tell me about your high school days.

MERO: Well, high school was a time in my life when—because my dad wasn't around all the time, living at the house—I think I started getting a little wild. I began to get into a lot of trouble. I was curious about a lot of things, so I began experimenting with drugs. It was a part of my life when I clearly began heading down the wrong path.

EDITOR: What was it exactly that began to guide you down that path? I mean, at that age we're all curious about the "unknown". Was it peer pressure? Was it your father not being there? What exactly was it?

MERO: I don't want to blame it on not having my father around, because my dad WAS there. He just wasn't living with us. I think a lot of it was peer pressure. Basically it was all about being young and making foolish mistakes.

EDITOR: What was happening with your education at the time? Were you still going to school?

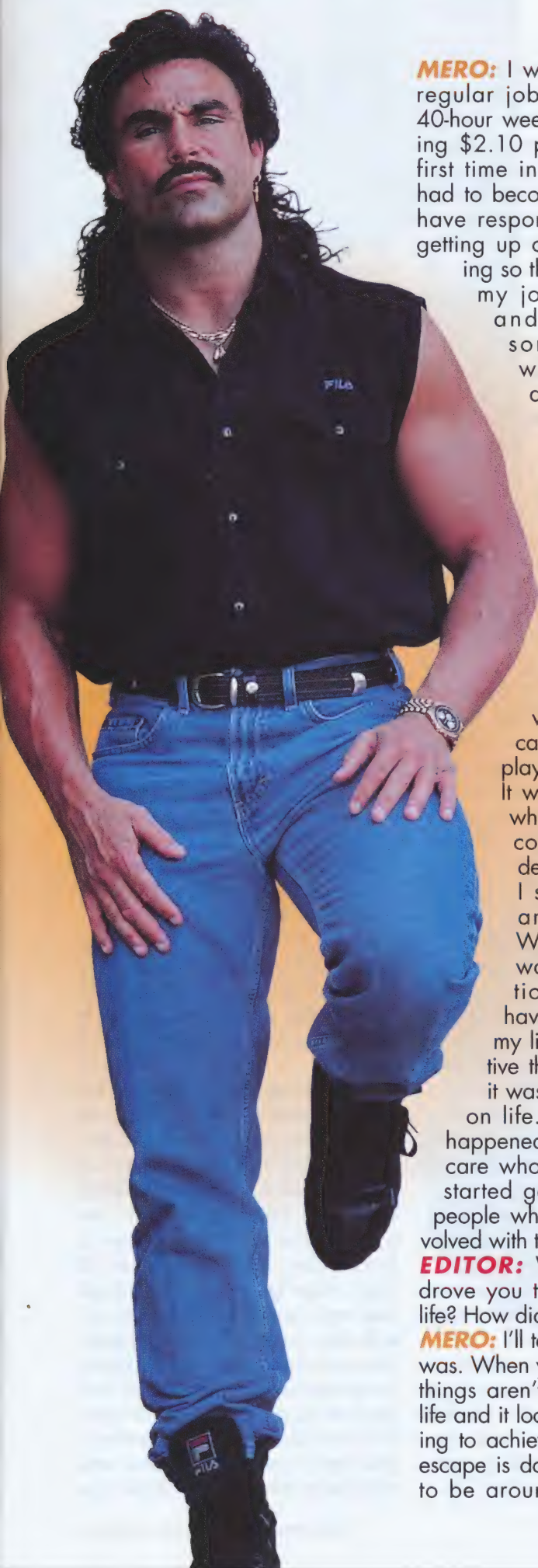
MERO: At that time, I was. Throughout my early years of high school I was still going to school regularly. But when I was 16, I was thrown out of school in Syracuse, where my mother had moved us three years earlier. So at that point, I went back to live with my dad in Buffalo. I eventually went back to school there, where I proceeded to get into a big fight, prompting me to get thrown out of that school also. So, I was then forced to go back to Syracuse and take a year off from school because they wouldn't take me back yet.

EDITOR: So now, with the doors of education being shut, what did you do?

section on the west side of Buffalo. There were a lot of gangs and [there was] a lot of trouble over there.

EDITOR: Was your father still a big part of your life then?

MERO: My dad worked a very strenuous job, so we only saw him about once a week. Every Sunday he would pick us up and take us places. But he was still a very big part of our lives. When I played sports—I played hockey at a very young age—my father would come get me at 4 o'clock in the morning, so he could drive me over to Canada so I could get ice time. Even though they divorced, he was still definitely a big part of my life.



MERO: I went out and I got a regular job. I was working a 40-hour week at a factory, making \$2.10 per hour. It was the first time in my life that I ever had to become a grown-up and have responsibility. You know, getting up on time every morning so that I could make it to my job... then working and always having somebody tell me what to do. It was a very humbling experience.

EDITOR: What exactly is going through your mind at that time. The fact is that you can't be where you want to be at this point in your life.

MERO: As a young person, I was very frustrated because my dream was to play professional sports. It was a time in my life when there was a lot of confusion. I was very depressed. That's when I started taking more and more to drugs. When I think back, it was such a sad situation because now I have so much desire in my life and so much positive thinking... at that time it was like I was giving up on life. I didn't care what happened to me and I didn't care who I hurt. That's why I started getting involved with people who I regret getting involved with to this day.

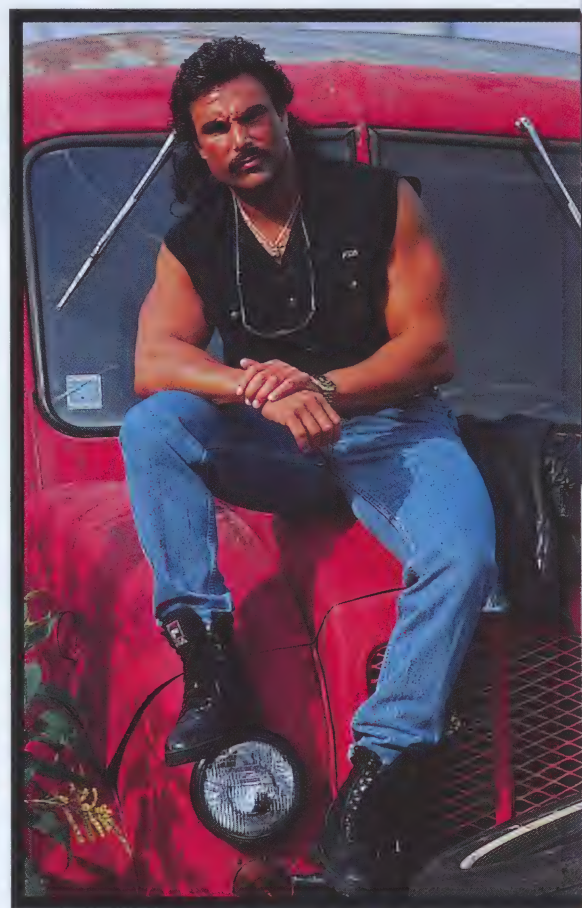
EDITOR: What do you think drove you to that point in your life? How did you get there?

MERO: I'll tell you exactly what it was. When you're depressed and things aren't going your way in life and it looks like you're not going to achieve your goals... your escape is doing drugs. You want to be around people who are

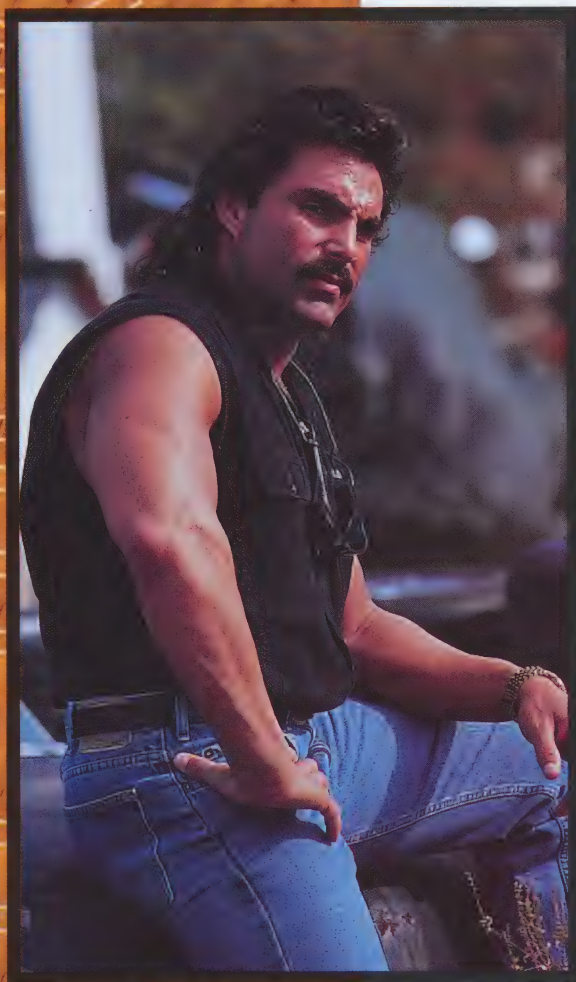
high because they appear to be happy. When you're laughing and having fun and doing drugs, you're not thinking about responsibility... you're not thinking about the future or doing well in school. For that moment, all those things just leave you. But then, when you come down from your high... it's all back again and the only way to get rid of that pain is to take more drugs. But that is the easy way out. That's the dead-end street. I soon learned that. I got involved pretty heavily in dealing drugs and it got to the point in my life where that was my main focus. I had no desire to be a professional athlete... I had no desire to accomplish anything in life... to finish school. I was making money and I was happy. I thought this was going to be great! Until one day it all ended.

EDITOR: What happened?

MERO: Vince, it's something I really don't want to get into. Let's just say I got into a certain situation that put my mother's and my little brother's life in danger, not to



An Interview
With
Marc Mero



mention my own. I basically started dealing for the money, but now the money just didn't mean anything anymore. I mean, I was spending it just as fast as I got it. I had a brand new Cadillac El

Dorado, a brand new Lincoln Continental... I had all kinds of fancy clothes and I could fly anywhere I wanted to fly. But inside I was anything but happy. I got to the point where I felt that I wanted to give it all up... I just wanted to die. And I came very close to reaching that goal. I remember being with my friends, after doing two straight days of drugs, and going into a seizure. I don't remember anything else except waking up with all my friends standing around my bed thinking that I died. It made me realize that not one of them would have called the

ambulance if I had died. That was the scariest point in my life, thinking that I could have died that night. I often thought, where would I have ended up if I did die? Where would I spend eternity? That was the question I started asking myself every day.

EDITOR: Marc, was your feeling this way more of a point of depression... or fear for your life?

MERO: You know, it's a combination. You appear to have everything that people would want—material things—but the unhappiness... I think I was brought up so much better than that. I had very good parents who loved me, and the way I was treating people... having no regard for life...

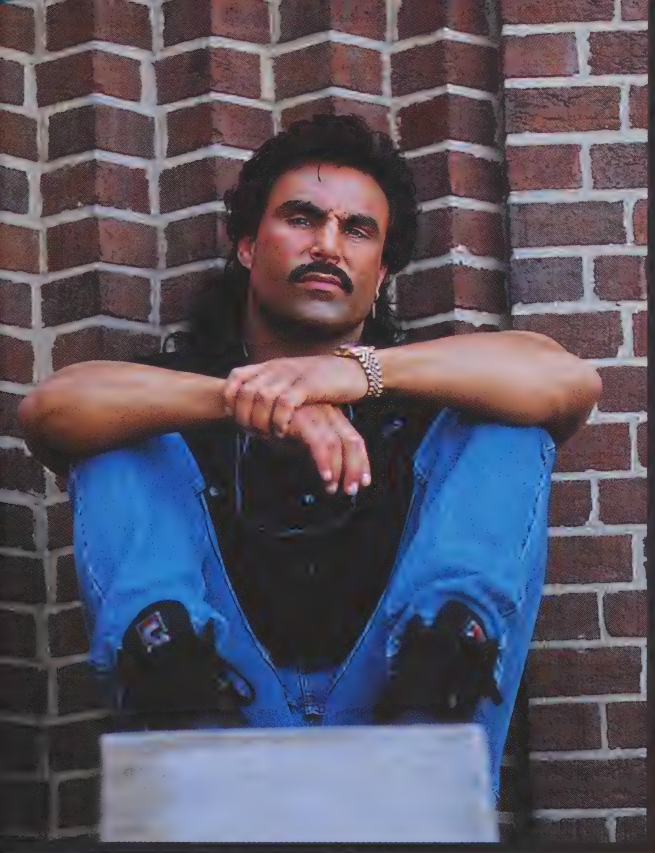
for other people's lives... for my own life. It was sad to see that a person could fall to that level, and that's what was happening to me. And I also had the fear of dying. Knowing that I do believe in God, I wondered where I would spend eternity? Because of these stupid mistakes, would I spend eternity separated from the Lord? Or could I turn my life around and make a difference in my life, being the positive person that I felt deep inside I was? I had hit the lowest point in my life, so I started thinking about what I wanted to do with my life.

EDITOR: What did you want to do?

MERO: Well, when I was younger, I had a great future in boxing. In my teens I was a boxing champ—New York State Golden Gloves, Empire State Games, Amateur Athletic Union. I was a member of the US Boxing Team... I had it all! To throw that all away just to try and make money selling drugs... Anyway, I decided I was going to make a comeback in boxing. But at this time I'm 26 years old... add to that four or five years of bad drug abuse and being away from the sport for so long...

EDITOR: Why was the money so important, Marc, especially with such a promising career in boxing? The money was probably going to come sooner or later anyway.

MERO: Well, Vince, I never forgot how poor we were when my parents first got divorced. We had nothing! My mom busted her butt just to survive! I remember we always had to eat corn flakes because it was the cheapest cereal. And I can also remember so many days getting up for school and not even having milk to go with that cereal. We didn't even have lunch money! We just didn't have anything! I remember feeling that I just couldn't stand living like that! So when I got older, I saw that there was an easy way to make quick money without hav-



was only 17 years old. It was like looking at a carbon copy of myself when I was only a young boy... that fire, that rage, that never-say-die attitude. I remember that this guy hit me with everything he had—he would just not stop coming! It was a real close fight, but I got butted in the eye so they stopped the fight because of the blood. I had to get eight stitches over my eyelid. I remember at that moment feeling, "My gosh, you don't have what you used to have

have it. The reason was I was still a user. I didn't dedicate myself like that young man did across the ring from me and if I was ever going to be a champion again, then I had to dedicate myself all over again. So, soon thereafter I decided to give up on boxing again. And then... the depression set in again. I'm 26 years old. Where am I going? What am I going to do? **WF**

ing to put an effort into waiting, and being patient and hopefully having a great career in boxing. So, I decided to go for that easy way out and try to make the quick money without even thinking of the consequences... like being put away in jail for 15 or 20 years for dealing the kind of drugs that I was dealing. Not even thinking about that... only thinking about how much money I was going to make on this next deal. I wasn't thinking about my health, my life or other people's lives for that matter. I mean, I look back every day and I think about how many people's lives I helped destroy and ruin by dealing them drugs. It blows my mind... my irresponsibility at that time in my life.

EDITOR: So, you've hit rock bottom. What do you do? Where do you go? How do you end it?

MERO: Well, in my comeback bid I had two fights. The first fight I trained real hard for and knocked the guy out in the first round. I did it in front of all my old buddies and my old boxing coach... it was like I was back on track again. But I was still a user—I was still using drugs. My next fight was against a kid who

in this ring... you're only fooling yourself." And you know what? It's not that I didn't





THROUGH MY CRYSTAL TURNBUCKLE... AGAIN!

The 1997 Predictions of Vince Russo

Can the future be predicted? Maybe, maybe not, but that doesn't mean that I can't look into my crystal turnbuckle for insights into 1997. Heck, this year I'm the Editor-in-Chief, and I can DEFINITELY do whatever I want!!! Here goes:

STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN

We may as well open it up with a prediction that's way out there... WAY out there! By the end of 1997, Stone Cold Steve Austin will be in a major feud with the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels. Whereas that may not seem surprising to anyone, here's the twist—Austin WILL NOT be in the corner opposite Shawn, he will be SHARING the same corner with him!!!

PAUL BEARER & MANKIND

Throughout 1997, the "Mankind Family" will continue to grow at a rapid pace. Relatives and "close" family friends will come out of the woodwork, making this "Krazy Klan" a force to be reckoned with by the year's end! There will be NO reconciliation between Bearer and the Undertaker and, in fact, their hatred toward each other will only DIG deeper and deeper.

BRITISH BULLDOG & OWEN HART

The reign for the bothers-in-law as World Wrestling Federation

Tag Team Champions will be short-lived. That, HOWEVER, will not be the big news. By the first glance of the summer sun, Bulldog and Owen will be involved in an ugly and bitter family feud that will make the flames be-

tween the brothers Hart look like a two-twig campfire!!!

JAMES E. CORNETTE

1997 will be the year that Camp Cornette finally burns down to the ground! After various unsuccessful attempts to gain the World

Wrestling Federation Title, the man they call



Vader will fire Cornette, prompting the now EX-manager to find employment elsewhere. Before the end of the year, however, James E. will land a job with some renegade promotion based in Philadelphia.

CRUSH

Don't be surprised if Crush's singles career doesn't live up to its high expectations. With his hunger to "dis-obey" all rules, Crush will soon find himself in the Federation doghouse. HOWEVER, don't lock the door and throw away the key just yet! A former old buddy of the ex-inmate will show up just in the nick of time to get Crush back on track!

FAAROOQ

There is Intercontinental gold in the future of Faarooq in 1997. HOWEVER, the real story here is that by the time the leaves fall, Faarooq and Ahmed Johnson will be one of the most impressive tag teams that the World Wrestling Federation has ever known!!!

GOLDUST

The truth about Goldust—who he really is—will not only be revealed... but, IT WILL SHOCK THE WRESTLING WORLD!!!

BRET "HIT MAN" HART

As of press time, Bret's future in the World Wrestling Federation is still unknown. I, however, just don't see Bret leaving the Federation until he takes care of some unfinished business—that of course being the Heartbreak Kid Shawn Michaels. Personally, I

think Bret WILL make a full-fledged comeback, REGAIN the Federation Title and then—and only then—trade it in for a Hollywood contract.

HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY & MR. PERFECT

The scam known as the "Perfect Alliance" will come to an abrupt and not so "perfect" end, when Hunter Hearst-Helmsley and Mr. Perfect discover that their respective egos cannot coexist in the

same habitat. By the time the ball falls in Times Square, Perfect and Hearst-Helmsley WILL square off in the middle of the ring in the eagerly anticipated—and much overdone—"Perfect Match"!

DOK HENDRIX

After excessive and unrelenting scrutiny by journalist Vic Venom, Dok Hendrix, a.k.a. Michael P.S. Hayes, will come out of retirement, forcing the controversial columnist to PHYSICALLY eat his words!





AHMED JOHNSON

Look for a dramatic change in Ahmed Johnson in 1997. Both his religious and political views will come to the forefront, taking full priority over his life. In an effort to follow his God, the Almighty Allah, Ahmed will turn his back on the fans and become one of the most feared—and hated—athletes in the history of the World Wrestling Federation.

MARK HENRY

The World's Strongest Man will find out that the superstars in the World Wrestling Federation are not just a bunch of weighted DUMBBELLS! After suffering a severe injury in the ring at the hands

of a heartless opponent, Henry will turn to another former Olympian in an effort to gain the proper tutelage and guidance needed in order to succeed in the squared circle. Once that "secondary" education is completed, Henry will come back with a vengeance!

ROCKY MAIVIA

This rookie sensation will go on to have a stellar 1997—HOWEVER—toward the year's end, a former ally of his father Rocky will return to the squared circle to kick some dirt in the face of the bright sensation.

CLARENCE MASON

In 1997, Clarence Mason will

successfully put together one of the most fearsome stables ever to be housed in the World Wrestling Federation. His "FIRM", as he will dub it, will dictate the future of the Federation in 1997. AND at some point during the year, Mason will shock the world when he signs—on the dotted line—one of the most popular fan favorites in Federation history to serve as the head council of his malicious group!

VINCE McMAHON

Under brilliant legal council, Jim Ross will find a loophole in his contract, forcing Vince McMahon to turn full control of the World Wrestling Federation and Titan Sports over to him. The only way that McMahon will be able to seize his family business back is by paying Ross and his attorneys the cool sum of \$100 million OR by agreeing to settle it the old-fashioned way—IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RING!!!

(For another possible scenario, see Jim Ross, below.)

WILDMAN MARC MERO & SABLE

Early in 1997, Marc Mero and Sable will go their separate ways, as a result of the continuous verbal lashing of the beautiful valet by the Wildman. In time, HOWEVER, Mero's true feelings will surface when he rescues Sable from the clutches of her new, physically abusive employer... whose name you will NEVER forget! The two will reunite and possibly hear wedding bells by summer's end.

SHAWN MICHAELS

It's going to be an up-and-down year for the Heartbreak Kid in 1997. Early in the year, he will successfully recapture the World Wrestling Federation Title, only to



squared circle and accept a position in the front office at Titan Sports. **HOWEVER**, shortly after that announcement, Jerry "The King" Lawler will coax Roberts back to the ring for one more match stating that, "If you defeat me... I'll also retire, **BUT** if I defeat you, I get to make a pair of boots out of 'Revelations'."

After losing the match, Jerry "The King" Lawler will be forced to retire... until he comes back the following week stating that he was, "... only kidding!"

lose it to Bret Hart at *WrestleMania XIII* two months later. From there, Shawn will go into a deep depression, forcing him to take a few months off. **HOWEVER**, after coaxing by none other than Stone Cold Steve Austin, Shawn will return to the ring as his tag team partner for one match, regain the eye of the tiger and thus recapture the Federation Title at the *Survivor Series*.

BRIAN PILLMAN

Before cupid's arrow pierces the heart... **THE TIME BOMB WILL EXPLODE!!!**

JAKE "THE SNAKE" ROBERTS

Sometime during 1997, Jake "The Snake" Roberts will announce his retirement from the



JIM ROSS

After discovering a loophole in his contract that names him the owner, CEO and chairman of Titan Sports, Jim Ross will be indicted for failing to file his 1996 Connecticut income taxes. In his deposition, Ross will state that, "He really didn't mean that Connecticut was, literally, a HELL-HOLE. However, the judge, a long-time resident of the Constitution State, doesn't buy it and forces Ross to pay his back taxes, which causes him to—LOSE EVERY-THING!!!

SYCHO SID

After dropping the Federation Title back to Shawn Michaels at the 1997 *Royal Rumble*, Sycho Sid will totally snap and return "home" to be comforted. Unfortunately, we will later find that "Home Sweet Home" will turn out to be none other than Mankind's comfy, cozy BOILER ROOM!!!

THE STALKER

In 1997 the Stalker will hunt, but more importantly... he will be the hunted.

SUNNY

With her managerial career behind her, Sunny will hire a famous Hollywood agent and become the talk of La-La Land in 1997. She'll go on to star in a number of made-for-television movies until her HART leads her back to the squared circle.



THE UNDERTAKER

Throughout the early stages of 1997, the Undertaker/Mankind war will continue to boil, HOWEVER, it will PALE in comparison to the fate that awaits the Taker by year's end. A secret will be revealed that could turn everybody's favorite Reaper into a helpless, almost human Clark Kent.

VADER

In one of the business coups of the year, Vader will dump James E. Cornette as his manager, after Jim Ross guarantees him the World

Wrestling Federation Title if he agrees to sign on the dotted line and join his RAPIDLY growing list of clients!

YOKOZUNA

Yoko will be named the "Come-back Superstar of the Year" after he gets down to fighting weight and regains some of that championship form of past years.

OTHER PREDICTIONS

THEY'RE COMING!!!

(The invasion starts in the next issue of the **WF** Magazine.)

See ya' next year!

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in line for

WF
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XIII

Chicago, IL • March 23, 1997

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WORLD
WRESTLING
FEDERATION
WEATHER
FORECAST:

NOTHING BUT SUNNY WEATHER AHEAD!

BY BILL BANKS

Since Sunny seemingly decided to wash her hands of managing this past September, her calendar has been booked solid with appointments and meetings—all targeted at making her the world's brightest star. At the tender age of 23, she is flooded day in and day out with offers for the big screen and television! Move over, Julia Roberts, your worst nightmare has arrived, and it won't be long before you may be knocking on Lyle Lovett's door again!

Becoming a well-known "Material Girl" is all fine and dandy for this beautiful vixen—a mountain of

tag-team titles, hordes of merchandise sporting her likeness and the crown of the computer world's most downloaded celebrity added to her list of accomplishments—but WHY did Sunny walk away from a successful run of managing to shine in the spotlight as a broadcaster? We know that she got rid of the Gunns and parted ways with Faarooq, but the public just doesn't know the behind-the-scenes details. Search no further... the answers



are about to be revealed—STRAIGHT from her own pearly whites.

"First of all, let me just get one thing straight here, babe," Sunny said. "All these allegations that I caused Faarooq to lose to Marc Mero are absurd! People are trying to tell me I had a brick in my purse that evening! YEAH, RIGHT! I showed the referees afterward there was nothing in there except a hairbrush and some lipstick! Mero was the one who used the foreign object—he ripped my purse out of my hands and threw something devious in it! So, after the match, me and Faarooq sat down and had a long conversation... and we both agree that being at ringside just isn't the place for a sweet, innocent girl like me. But we still remain VERY GOOD friends."

Things may have ended up "peachy" between Sunny and the former gladiator, but what about her treatment of the Smoking Gunns—most notably Billy Gunn, who seems to be in his own little private rodeo world right about now. There is no doubt that the cowboy was driven to get Sunny to notice him again, and even went so far as to stab his own brother Bart in the back to do it. Talk about being smitten! But how could the cowboy not have seen it coming? After Sunny dumped the Body Donnas and the Godwinns, did Billy expect anything different when he lost the gold?

"Billy is crying buckets of tears now that I'm gone," Sunny said. "I can't help it if the man couldn't stand being away from me! He would send me flowers and leave countless messages on my answering machine when we weren't on the road. He promised me trips—

Jamaica, the Bahamas and Hawaii—and even went so far as to propose to me! He was a great-looking guy, but he lost! What do you want me to do? I have to look out for my own future and hanging around someone who isn't a champion doesn't work for me, babe."

What DOES work for Sunny now is her place on *Live Wire*, the Saturday morning program in which Sunny is usually "persuading" guests and hanging out in the World Wrestling Federation Online chat room. The Golden Haired Fox has no problem stepping in front of Dok Hendrix, Todd Pettengill or Jim Cornette to take charge of the camera, and one recent guest—Vic Venom—stated that there are only two reasons that people watch *Live Wire*—Sunny! One thing is certain... there is never a dull moment during the live hour. With Cornette, Dok and Todd constantly engag-

ing in verbal warfare, anything can and does happen! But is "Ms. Delight" content with being just a "co-host" on the show?

"Listen, I am THE host of *Live Wire*," Sunny said. "The other guys are just sidekicks! To put it simply, I'm David Letterman and those other three are just Paul Shaffer's band, got it? As far as Jim Cornette goes, a lot of people wonder how I can HOST the show with him after all the bickering we have done. Me and Jim came to an agreement that we could work together like true professionals. Since then, we have had some great conversations and I have even shared some strategies with him."

"As far as Todd goes," Sunny added, "I give him a lot of credit, he's the only one who can do what he does but, honey, people tune in to see me—not him. And with the money I am getting to be the HOST, I can deal with anyone



on that show—even Dok AND Vince McMahon if I have to!”

Speaking of money, let's get back to the bright future that Sunny has planned for herself—in the Federation and on the big screen. Right now, she is perusing offers from television and movie producers, hoping to start off in small roles that will allow directors to realize she deserves a huge role as a leading lady to the likes of Brad Pitt or Antonio Banderas. But can Sunny balance her time in the Federation with the goals of being an aspiring Marilyn Monroe? Not many people know that Marilyn is the Fox's idol, a star who used her brains AND beauty to influence people—which is exactly what Sunny has accomplished.

Oddly enough, Ms. Monroe and “Ms. Delight” seem to share a common bond. At one time Monroe made headlines for appearing in the world-famous *Playboy* magazine... and if you haven't yet heard the cries from

the fans around the world for Sunny to appear in those same pages, get out from under your rock! Amazingly, sources close to Sunny claim she would consider such a venture—ONLY if the dollar amount was right. A tempting offer indeed, but Sunny maintains that her loyalty remains with the World Wrestling Federation, and she resents being seen only as an object.

Despite her ambitions to enter the world of television and movies, fans of the Fox will continue to wonder whether Sunny will ever decide to take her manager's license out of storage and put it to good use again. She recently stated that the only way she would do that is if someone came along with the potential to be the greatest champion of all time. But let's not kid ourselves—Sunny only wants to manage that kind of protege because of the “financial boost” she could gain from guiding his career.

“A lot of people have been asking me who I will manage,” Sunny said. “I'm out of the tag team situation, I just couldn't find a team that could hold up their end of the bargain after I paid them tons of money to hold onto the belts. But you never know what town or city in the world I will show up in—I could give support to ANYONE I choose!”

One can only wonder what Sunny will have accomplished 10 years from now. Think about it. She's ONLY 23 years old and she has already done something NO other manager in Federation history can claim—not Albano, Heenan or Skaaland. She has managed three separate tag teams to three consecutive title reigns... unheard of before today! No one doubts that Sunny will be a major force in whatever direction she chooses to take. The only question is: How many titles and awards will pile on top of each other in her trophy case? **WF**



PERSONALITY PROFILE

FAVORITE BAND:

KISS

BIGGEST THRILL IN LIFE:

Just waking up—
and being Sunny!

PERSON YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO MEET:

Marilyn Monroe

FAVORITE SPORT (BESIDES WRESTLING):

Football

FAVORITE ATHLETE:

Dory Funk Jr.

FAVORITE TELEVISION SHOW:

Murphy Brown

HOBBIES:

Skiing, boating, beaching,
weight training and
vacationing

FAVORITE FAST FOOD:

McDonald's Grilled Chicken
Sandwich

BEST ADVICE EVER RECEIVED:

Win if you can, lose if you must,
but ALWAYS cheat!

FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER:

Tweetie Bird

FAVORITE VIDEO GAME:

Tetris

SECRET TALENT:

I'm an excellent cook!

FAVORITE MOVIE:

Clueless

IF I COULD HAVE DONE IT DIFFERENTLY, I WOULD HAVE...

I would have gotten my
bachelor's degree so
I wouldn't have
another semester to
complete before
going to medical
school.



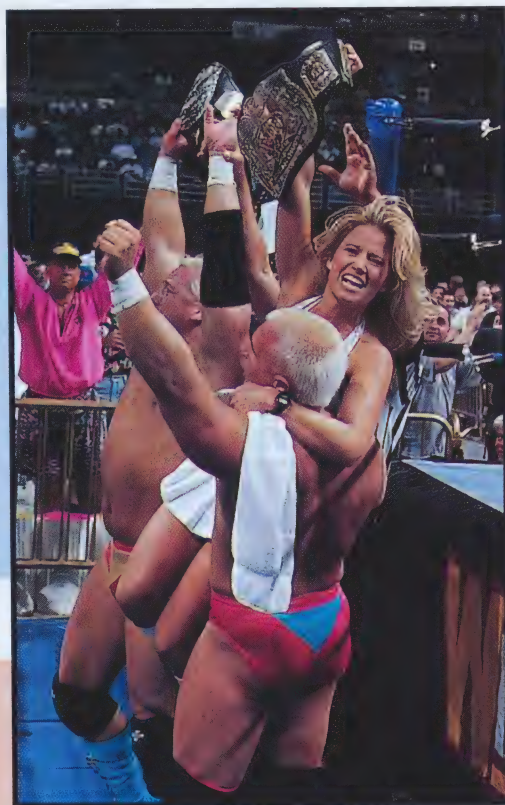


SUNN

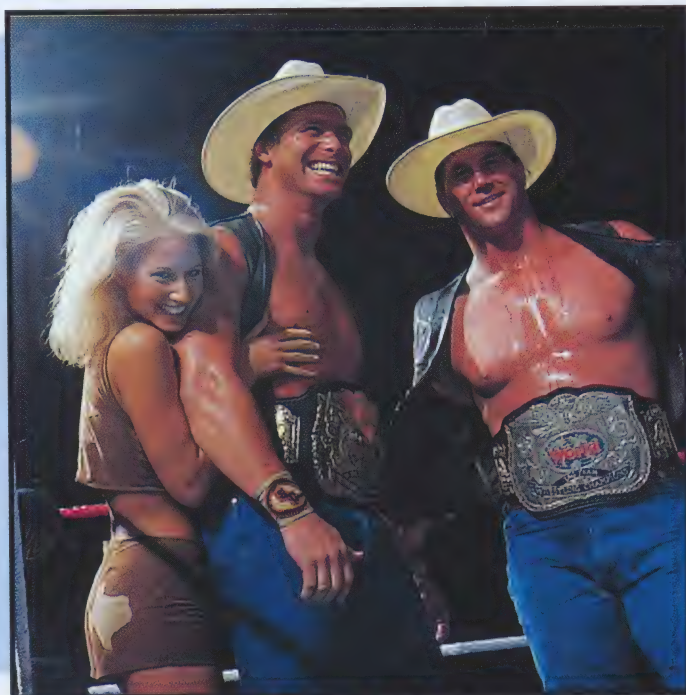


CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Sunny is the only manager in World Wrestling Federation history to lead three teams—the Body Donnas, the Godwinns and the Smoking Gunns—to consecutive Tag Team Title reigns! The Golden Haired Fox was in the corner of Skip and Zip when they took the gold at the *WrestleMania XII* Free-For-All, eliminating the Godwinns in the final match of a Tag Team Tournament. Less than two months later, Sunny shifted gears to the Godwinns after they took the title from the Donnas at New York's Madison Square Garden. Then at June's *King of the Ring*, "Ms. Delight" showed us her true taste in Cowboys—helping the Smoking Gunns claim the straps from Phineas and Henry!



Since her debut into the Federation last year, Sunny has always hinted at the fact that she would one day lead a singles competitor to glory, in addition to her tag team success. The day after July's *In Your House* on *Monday Night RAW*, Sunny delivered on that promise—and in brutal fashion! The gladiator known as Faarooq burst onto the scene unexpectedly and injured Ahmed Johnson—putting the Intercontinental Champion out of action for months with a severely injured kidney! What Sunny wanted, Sunny got—and Faarooq was a man to be feared by all competitors.



Surprisingly, just two months later, the Golden Haired Fox made some changes to her skyrocketing career. First, at September's *In Your House*, Sunny fired Billy and Bart, the Smoking Gunns, after they dropped the tag team gold to Owen Hart and the British Bulldog. Then on *Monday Night RAW* the following day, Faarooq and Sunny decided to go their separate ways in the Federation after the gladiator's Intercontinental Title Tournament loss to the Wildman Marc Mero. For the moment, Sunny has washed her hands of managing and is concentrating on becoming a shining star of movies and television who will put Marilyn Monroe to shame!

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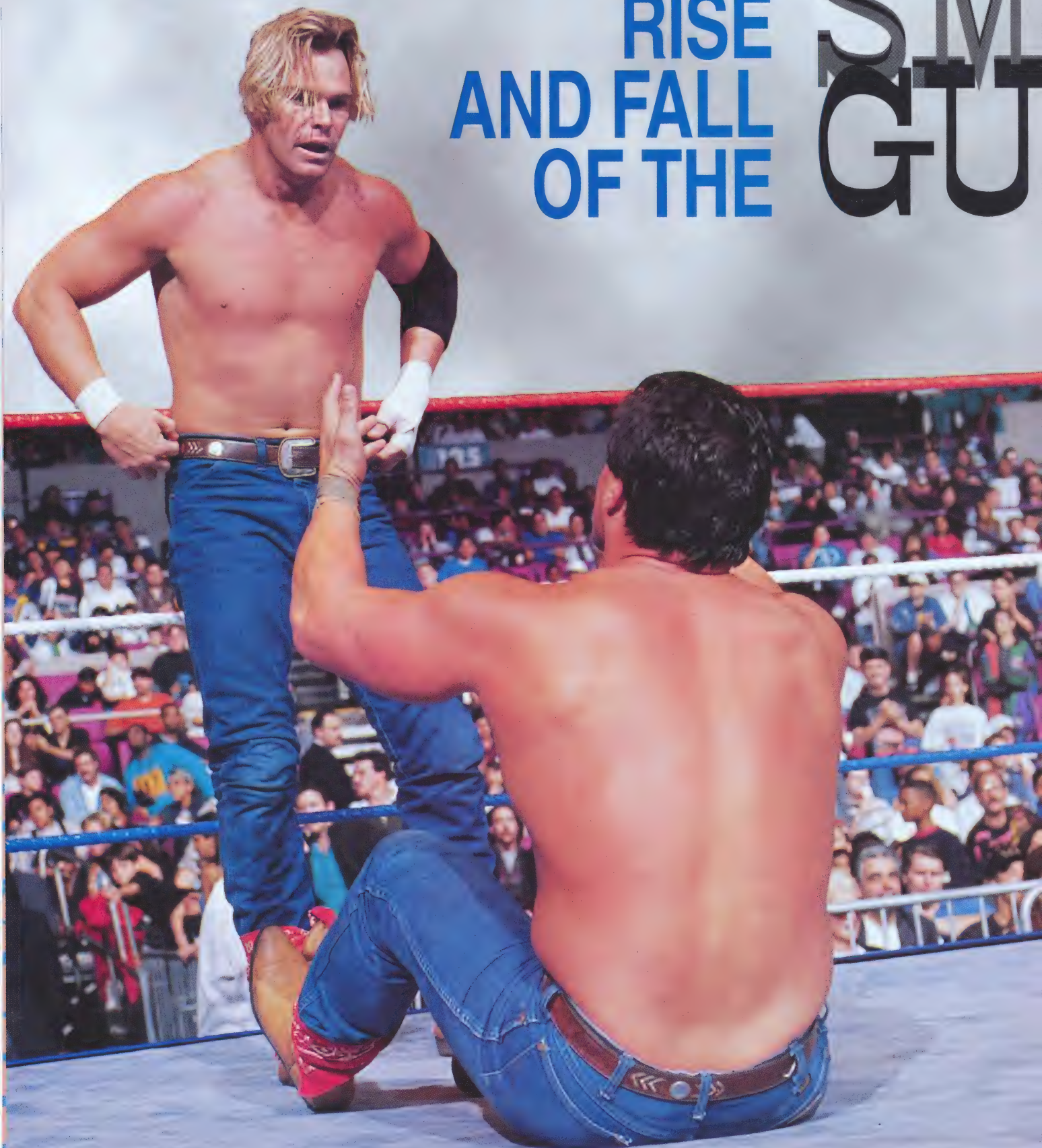
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NOW JUST THE SMOKE REMAINS:

RISE AND FALL OF THE

SM GU



OKING NNNS

By Lou Gianfriddo

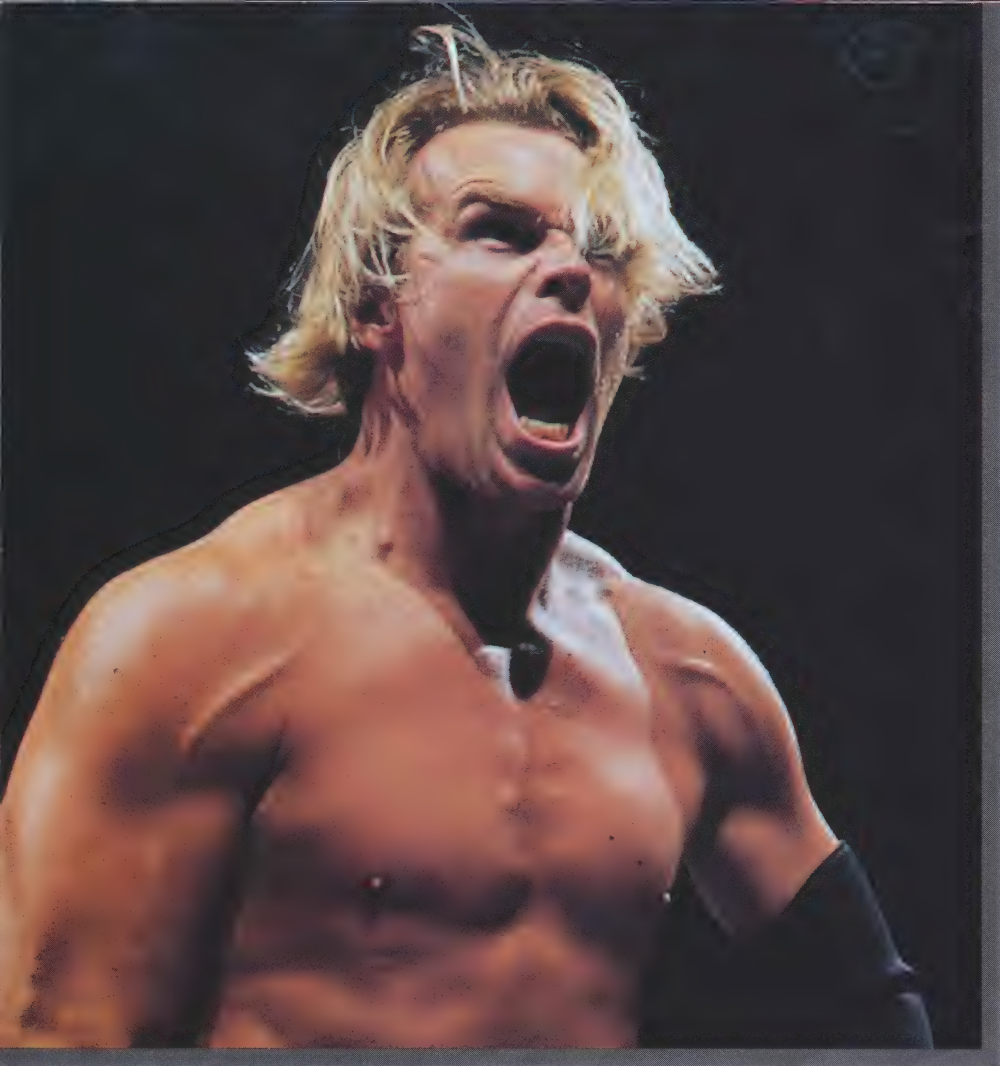
Recently, one of the World Wrestling Federation's most prized tag teams—the Smoking Gunns, Billy and Bart—disbanded. It was a sad ending to what might have been the greatest tag team in Federation history. Or

could they have been? That question has been on the minds of nearly every Federation fan. *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* decided to take it a step further and diagnose the situation.

In their favor, the Gunns are

three-time World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champions. Until manager Sunny came along, they were considered one of the most respected tag teams of all time, valiantly defending their titles against scores of worthy tandems.





However, many Federation fans feel that the Gunns were never really great. In fact, some fans said the Gunns were "sham champions". Perhaps that's so.

Many believe the Gunns can't be compared with some of the truly greatest Tag Team Champions of all time—titleholders such as Demolition, Ax and Smash. Demolition, who were four-time Federation Tag Team Champions, entered the Federation in 1987 and wreaked havoc for more than five years. They left countless tag teams in their devastating wake, including the formidable combination of Haku and the late Andre the Giant. Other teams to succumb to Demolition included the original Rockers—Marty Jannetty and Shawn Michaels—and the Legion of Doom—Animal and Hawk.

The Hart Foundation—Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart and Bret "Hit

Man" Hart—are another duo many say are the best of all time. The Foundation, who are related to each other by marriage (Neidhart is married to Bret's sister Allison), formed in 1986. In early 1987, they defeated the British Bulldogs—Davey Boy Smith and Dynamite Kid—for the Tag Team Title and defended them against the most skilled teams of the day until they eventually lost the belts in late 1987. From there, the Hart Foundation recaptured the belts on numerous occasions and often did so against what seemed to be insurmountable odds.

There have been other teams—the Bulldogs of the mid-1980s and the Blackjacks of the mid-1970s, to name two—who have risen to the top of the tag team world. Although the Gunns are three-time tag team titleholders, many believe they shouldn't be included with any of the other afore-

mentioned combinations. Some believe that the Gunns were doomed to fail since they came to the Federation.

This may be true. The Gunns are brothers and during their upbringing, Billy harbored a "deep-rooted" resentment of his sibling Bart.

"Billy was always jealous of Bart," says a source who lived near the Gunn family ranch in Texas. "Bart was a better athlete in high school and he was the first of the brothers to be hired into the Rodeo. Billy kind of resented that and I think he took that with him when he and Bart joined the World Wrestling Federation."

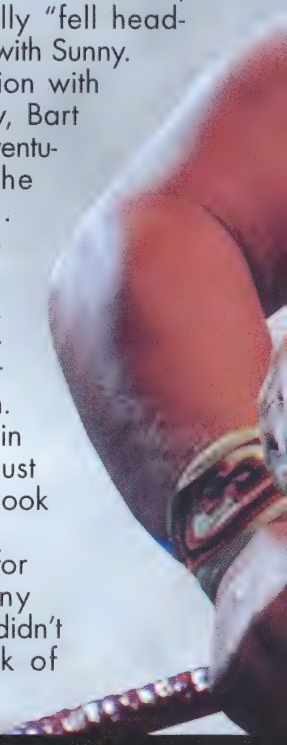
Another source says the jealousy between Billy and Bart reaches beyond athletics.

"Billy always seemed to get mad when any women would be attracted to Bart and not him. That's why when Billy finally got close to Sunny, he became very obsessive of her. He finally felt like he had something his brother didn't."

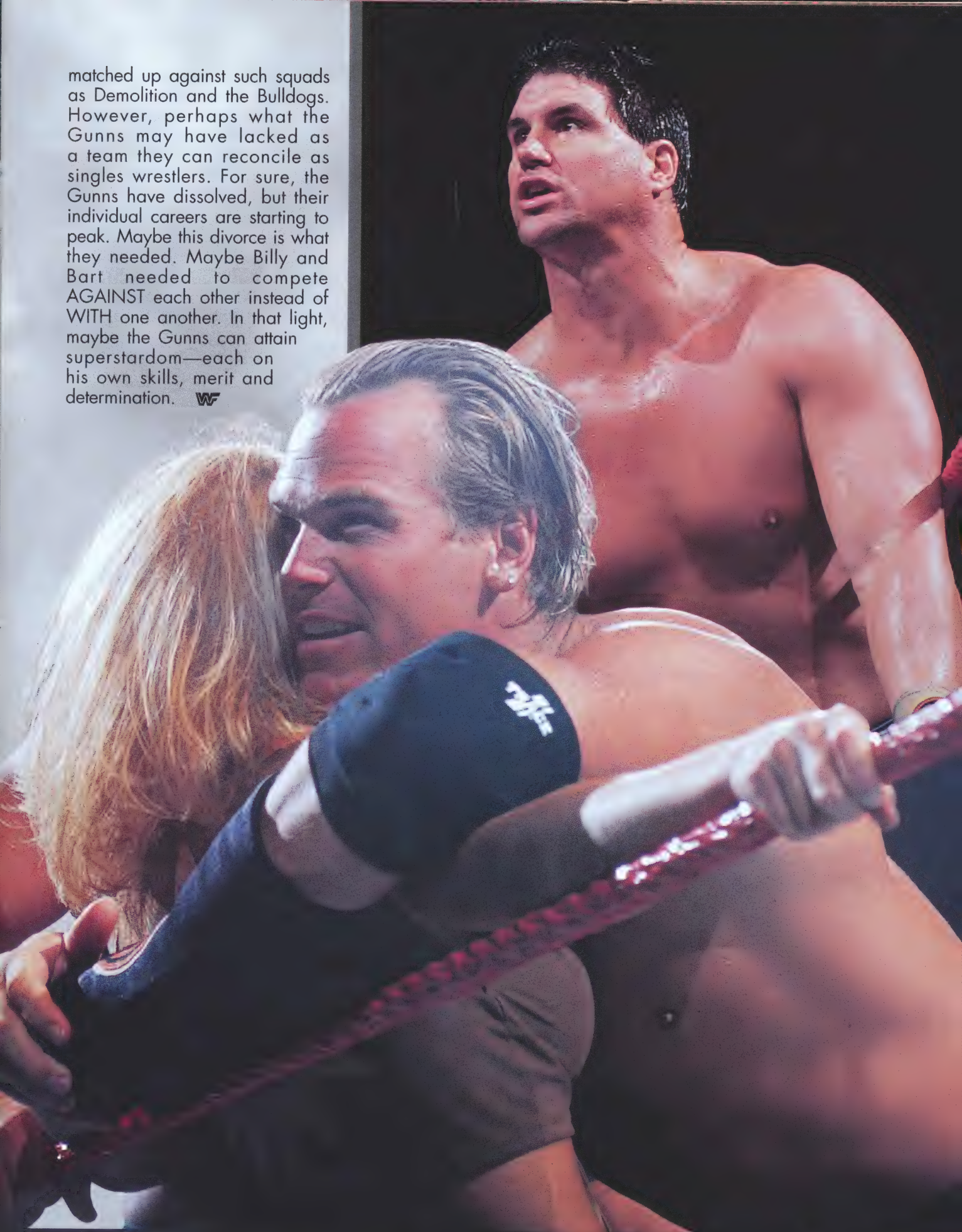
As it turns out, that seems to be valid. When Sunny left the Body Donnas to manage the Gunns, Billy was immediately captivated by her beauty and charm. In fact, Bart says that Billy "fell head-over-heels in lust" with Sunny. Billy's preoccupation with self-serving Sunny, Bart says, led to the eventual downfall of the Smoking Gunns. Many fans agree with Bart Gunn.

"Just take a look at Billy at [September's] *In Your House*," says a fan. "His head wasn't in [the match]. He just didn't have that look of a champion."

Unfortunately for the Gunns, many fans believe they didn't possess the look of greatness when



matched up against such squads as Demolition and the Bulldogs. However, perhaps what the Gunns may have lacked as a team they can reconcile as singles wrestlers. For sure, the Gunns have dissolved, but their individual careers are starting to peak. Maybe this divorce is what they needed. Maybe Billy and Bart needed to compete AGAINST each other instead of WITH one another. In that light, maybe the Gunns can attain superstardom—each on his own skills, merit and determination. **WF**



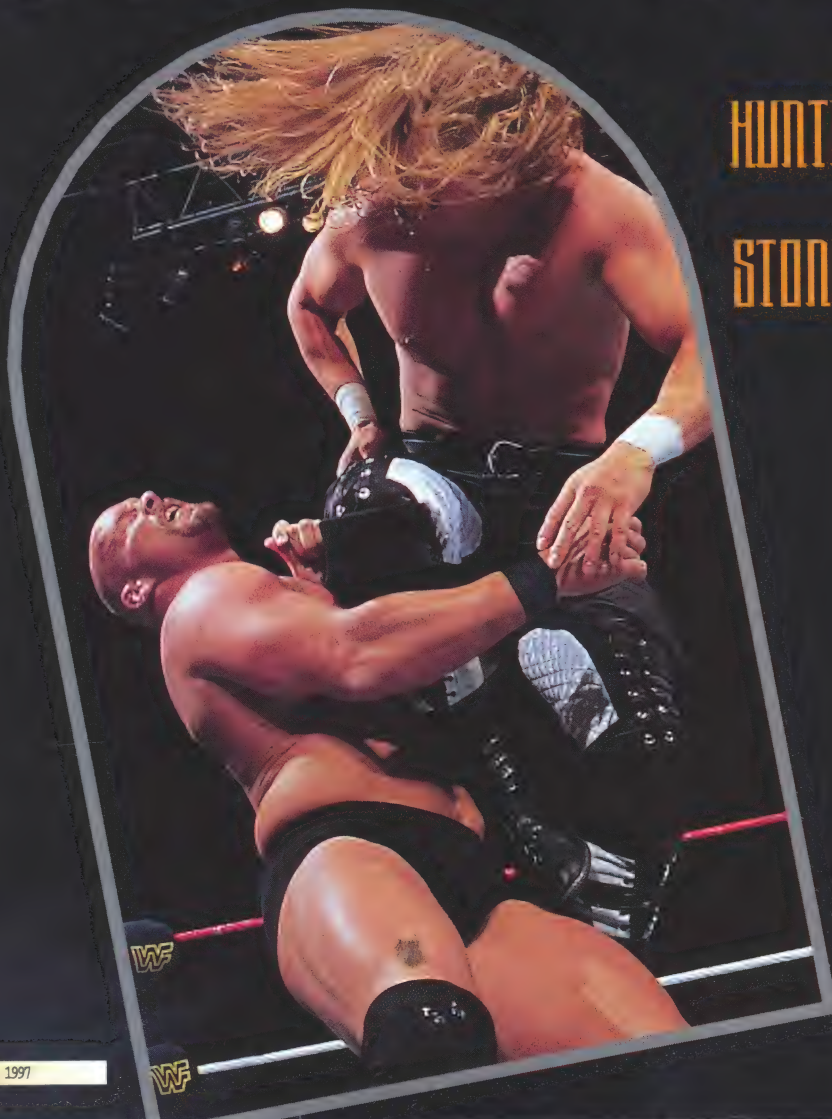
WF
IN YOUR
HOUSE

**BURIED
ALIVE**

RESULTS

BY KEITH ELLIOT GREENBERG

**HUNTER HEARST-HELMSLEY
VS
STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN**



When Austin's scheduled opponent, Savio Vega, bowed out because of injuries, World Wrestling Federation president Gorilla Monsoon penciled in Helmsley—a man just as ruthless as the Stone Cold gladiator.

The two exchanged hard slaps, clotheslines, sleeper holds and nasty words. In the middle of the match, Mr. Perfect strolled to ring-side and walked off with the lovely lady accompanying Helmsley. When Hunter went after the intruder, Austin jumped him outside the ring. But Austin also seemed aggravated by Perfect's presence—and he hurled a drink in the visitor's face.

Perfect had made his impact, however. Helmsley double-under-

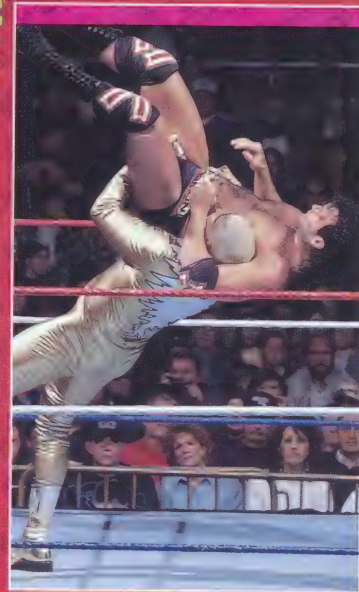
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GOLDUST



EDGED BY GOLDUST!



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION



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WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION



THE CURTAIN FALLS ON THE WILDMAN!



WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

64

At the 1996 *Royal Rumble*, Goldust premiered his first full-length blockbuster entitled *Downfall of the Bad Guy*, in which the Eccentric One captured the Intercontinental Title from Razor Ramon. That night Goldust also revealed his golden director to the world—Marlena.

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65

At the 1996 Academy Awards, all the stars in Hollywood had their eyes on someone other than "Oscar" that night! Shattered Dreams Production Co.—Goldust and Marlena—paid a visit to the ceremony where stars are made and dreams are realized... GOLDEN dreams!

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66

At the 1996 *SummerSlam* spectacular from Cleveland, Ohio, Goldust proved to Marc Mero why he is the ONLY leading man during the summer blockbuster months. The Eccentric One—with the directing skills of Marlena—overcame the Wildman's incredible aerial assault to get the win, courtesy of a vicious Curtain Call.

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GOLDUST



GOLDUST —
The premier box office smash hit!

Height:

6' 6"

Weight:

260 pounds

From:

Hollywood, CA

Titles Held:

World Wrestling Federation
Intercontinental Title (2)

Motto:

"You will never forget the name... Goldust!"

Finishing Move:

The Curtain Call

Nickname:

The Bizarre One

PPV Debut:

1995 October *In Your House* vs.
Marty Jannetty.

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W IN YOUR House RESULTS

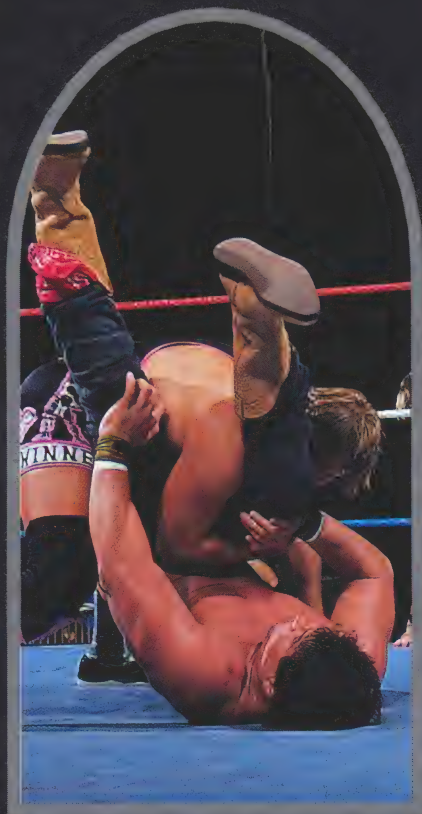
THE SMOKING GUNNS VS THE BRITISH BULLDOG & OWEN HART

(World Wrestling Federation Tag Team Champions)

The Tag Team Champions used double team maneuvers to hurt Billy Gunn, former co-holder of the Tag Team Championship and a man accused of showboating in the ring to win back his former manager, shapely Sunny. Bart Gunn turned the tide for his team by powerslamming the Bulldog, but not for long. Soon Bulldog was holding Bart in place, while Owen flew off the top rope with a dropkick to the former titlist.

After some miscommunication, Billy and Bart picked up the tempo by pooling their skills against Owen, harming him with a double Russian leg sweep. Then Bart dropped to all fours, while Billy vaulted over him and avalanched Owen in the corner. But when the Gunns tried their famous Sidewinder on Hart, the Bulldog intervened, breaking up the hold. With the Gunns in conflict—Bart apparently

accused his brother of taking too much time with the finisher, in an effort to attract Sunny's attention—Owen pinned Billy after a spinning heel kick.



"There is NO CASE that the British Bulldog and Owen Hart can't win, and there is no court of law big enough for Clarence Mason!"

—CLARENCE MASON

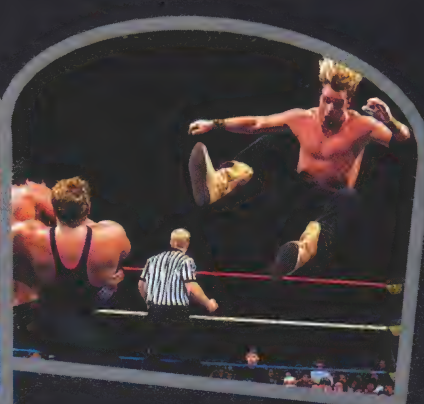
"Why don't you ask Billy what happened in there. I don't know where his head's at these days. As a matter of fact, I don't even KNOW HIM anymore!"

—BART GUNN



"Ask me? Is Bart kidding me? I was the only one who went into that match prepared!"

—BILLY GUNN



WF IN YOUR House RESULTS

SYCHO SID VS VADER

Both brutish competitors had incentive to be even more savage than usual in this contest—the winner would be granted a title shot against World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Champion Shawn Michaels at the *Survivor Series*.

Michaels entered the ring to wish both competitors luck before the match. The champion couldn't resist poking fun at Vader's manager, Jim Cornette, unhinging the Mastodon from the Rocky Mountains. Sid zoned in on his irritated rival and floored him, but Vader was swiftly back in the match, crunching his foe in the corner with a clothesline.

Sid was knocked from the ring. He tried sunset-flipping his way back between the ropes, but Vader grabbed the strands and lowered himself onto his opponent's chest. Sid hung tough, pulled a suplex from out of nowhere and delivered a big foot to the face. When Sid attempted a body press from the top rope, however, he was caught in midair, slammed into the mat and splashed.

Vader went to the second rope to execute a second splash. He covered Sid, but pulled up a

shoulder at the count of two. Apparently Vader's goal was making his opponent suffer. Up the ropes he went again, sailing off in a Vader Bomb attempt. Incredibly, Sid managed to fold his legs and hurt Vader on the way down.

Sid went for a Powerbomb. Cornette tried breaking it up, but Sid cut him off. When Sid attempted a second Powerbomb, Vader hit him with a low blow. Sid was now set up for a Powerbomb. He locked his legs, refusing to go up for the move. Vader slung Sid into the ropes. He bounced off, ducked under a clothesline, executed a chokeslam and scored the pinfall, earning a chance to lock horns with his friend, Shawn Michaels, for the gold.



"The entire world saw Vader pin that Sycho for the 1-2-3! Did anybody bother to tell that referee that he was supposed to count in seconds... not MINUTES!!!"

— JAMES E. CORNETTE



"Hickory dickory dock... I just cleaned Vader's clock. Even though the war with the Mastodon may well be done... the destiny of two friends has just begun."

— SYCHO SID



BURIED ALIVE MATCH

THE UNDERTAKER VS MANKIND



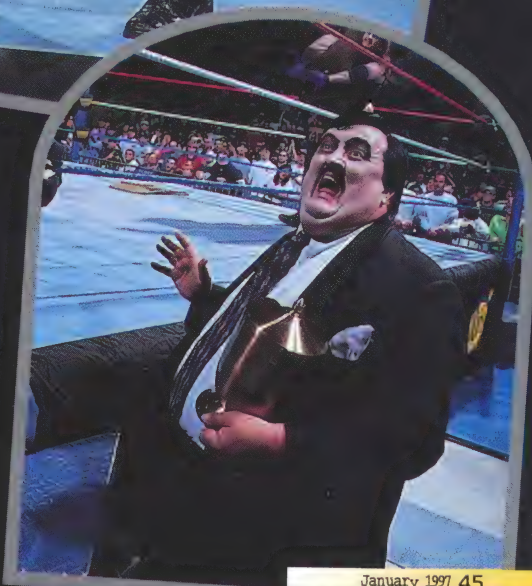
The tension between these two enemies ran so deep that the World Wrestling Federation refused to sanction this bout—an unusual contest in which the loser would be buried alive beside a tombstone set up down the aisle from the ring.

Announcer Jim Ross equated the feud to a “prison riot”. Undertaker kicked his opponent—head-first—against the guardrail, then dove on him from the top rope. Mankind was backed up to the open grave, but managed to recover his edge by thrusting a shovel into the Undertaker’s throat.

Beside the ring, the Undertaker gained a measure of revenge by choking his rival with a micro-

“Ding, Dong, the wicked witch is dead, OHHH YESSS!!!

— PAUL BEARER



WF IN YOUR House RESULTS

phone cord and then shoving him over the guardrail and continuing the battle amidst the fans. After a few moments, the Undertaker propelled his foe over the barrier again. When Mankind stood, the Undertaker sailed over the guardrail and hit his adversary with a clothesline.



Undertaker tried walking the ropes and coming down on top of his opponent in the ring. But Paul Bearer—Mankind's manager and Undertaker's former advisor—reached up from ringside and snapped a rope between the legs of the Man from the Dark Side. Then Bearer handed his charge a sharp object to gouge the Undertaker's flesh.

Undertaker took possession of the weapon, jabbed it at his foe, executed a legdrop and proceeded to stalk Bearer at ringside. The Undertaker snuck up behind his opponent and cracked him across the skull with a chair. Grasping the Undertaker by the hair, Mankind marched his opponent up the aisle and tossed him into the pit. But the Grim Reaper pulled in his foe. Mankind replied with a handful of dirt to the face.

The match returned to the ring, where Mankind delivered a DDT to a metal folding chair. Undertaker rose





from the ashes, placed the chair across Mankind's face and followed up with a lethal legdrop across the nose.

Mankind surged briefly. But the Undertaker soon brought the ring steps into the ring, pitched them into Mankind's face and delivered the Tombstone. The World Wrestling Federation's resident Reaper draped Mankind around his shoulders and lumbered toward the pit. Mankind attempted the Mandible Claw. Undertaker fought off his foe, and Bearer handed Mankind his funeral urn to use as a weapon. As Mankind raised the object, Undertaker responded with a chokeslam into the hole, elevating the shovel and burying his foe to earn the win.

As Undertaker continued shoveling dirt onto his enemy, a mysterious masked goon appeared to knock out the Man from the Dark Side with a shovel and pull Mankind from the pit. With the assistance of Hearst-Helmsley, Goldust and others, the duo buried the Undertaker alive. As the show was ending, a bolt of lightning hit the cemetery plot and the Reaper's extended hand emerged from the soil. **WF**



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R/P-1

FEDERATION NEWCOMERS



THE SULTAN

FINISHER:

A

The Sultan relies on what he knows will work. Rather than trying to create his own finisher, the Sultan uses the hold taught to him by his trainer, the Iron Sheik. The Camel Clutch was good enough to win the Sheik the World Wrestling Federation Heavyweight Championship in 1983—and effective enough for the Sultan to emerge triumphant so far in the sport of kings.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

B+

While the Sultan might appear to be a brute, he's actually well schooled in the fighting arts, combining the styles of various continents. Additionally, he's been coached by the Iron Sheik, a former Olympian for Iran, and two-time World Wrestling Federation Champion Bob Backlund.

POWER:

B-

The Sultan may be tough, but we're not sure if he's a powerhouse. After all, the World Wrestling Federation also boasts athletes like Mark Henry, Vader and Sid. It will take the Sultan some time to work himself into their league.

Are They Making The Grade?

By Keith Elliot Greenberg

AGGRESSIVENESS:

A

The Sultan comes after his opponent with flying fists and feet, not bothering to ease his way into a match. Any foe who dares to take a breather will quickly regret letting his guard down, as the Sultan pummels the man while his back is turned.

FORTITUDE:

B

In a recent contest on *Monday Night Raw*, the Sultan was tested against Jake "The Snake" Roberts—a bona fide legend in the squared circle. Roberts is internationally known as a master of dirty tricks, but the Sultan hung in there and got the duke.

INTIMIDATION FACTOR:

B

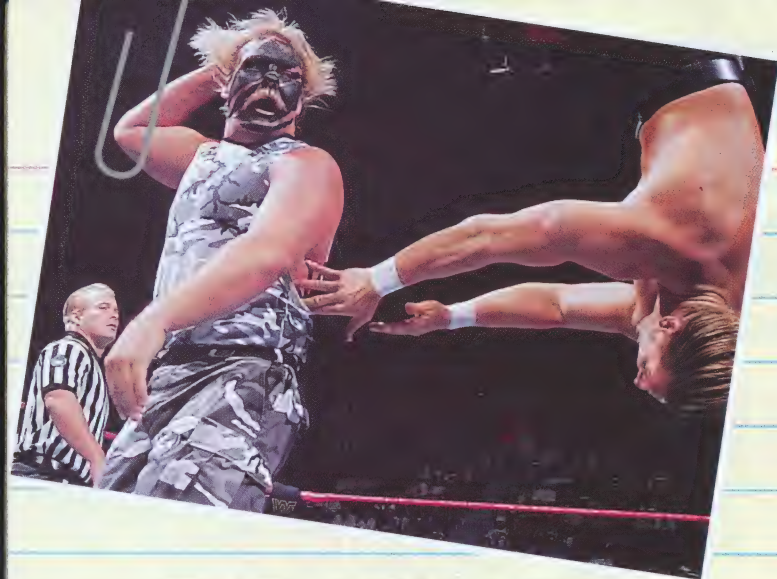
With his head shaved except for a Genghis Khan ponytail jutting out of the center of his cranium and his bizarre face mask, the Sultan makes some opponents think twice before engaging in combat. But with gladiators like the Undertaker, Mankind and Vader in the World Wrestling Federation, it will take a lot to make most competitors tremble.

OUTLOOK:

The Sultan is clearly a take-no-prisoners athlete, who's been trained by the best. His prospects are far better than that of an average rookie.

THE SULTAN'S OVERALL GRADE:

B+



THE STALKER

FINISHER:

B

The Stalker's Superplex might have garnered him an "A" 10 years ago. But this is the 90s, when wrestlers like Shawn Michaels, Owen Hart and Marc Mero headline cards. The Superplex is a painful thing to endure, but would the Undertaker, Sid or a similar wrestler be able to survive it? Quite possibly.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

A

This man is unrelenting between the ropes. But he is also deeply intimate with the ways of the ring. He can apply virtually any type of suplex—no small feat. Were the Stalker to enter into an amateur competition, he would astound most of his critics by coming out on top.

POWER:

B

The Stalker has hoisted up men much larger than himself and driven them into the mat. But this is more a matter of technique—he knows how to lift and position his body—than sheer strength.

AGGRESSIVENESS:

B

The Stalker believes the wrestling ring is his domain and—as his name indicates—he goes after his opponents. Still, aggressiveness is relative. Stalker won't earn an "A" until he takes on a championship-caliber athlete.

FORTITUDE:

B-

While the Stalker can make most opponents beg for mercy, we're not sure how he'd respond if someone placed him in the same position. Does he have the

heart to continue or would he bail out? Most likely the answer is the former. But time will tell.

INTIMIDATION FACTOR:

B

With his painted face and camouflage garb, the Stalker seems more prepared for guerilla warfare than mat action. Certain opponents cower from him. But others have vanquished men who appeared equally fearsome and remain unimpressed.

OUTLOOK:

The Stalker is a very rough man, but he hasn't hit his stride yet. Many wrestlers in the World Wrestling Federation are convinced that they can detour his march to the top. We want to give him the benefit of the doubt, but he has to show us that he's more than his detractors claim.

THE STALKER'S OVERALL GRADE:

B

T.L. HOPPER

FINISHER:

B

Hopper, the toilet-plunging warrior, calls his signature move "Down The Drain". It's a brain buster—or modified suplex. Others use similar maneuvers just to soften up opponents. Hopper's suplex is forceful enough to work as a finisher.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

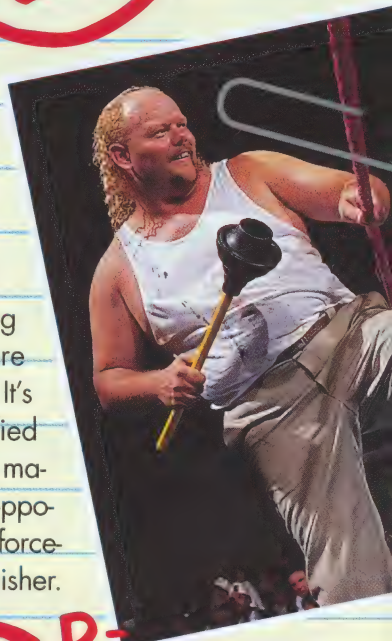
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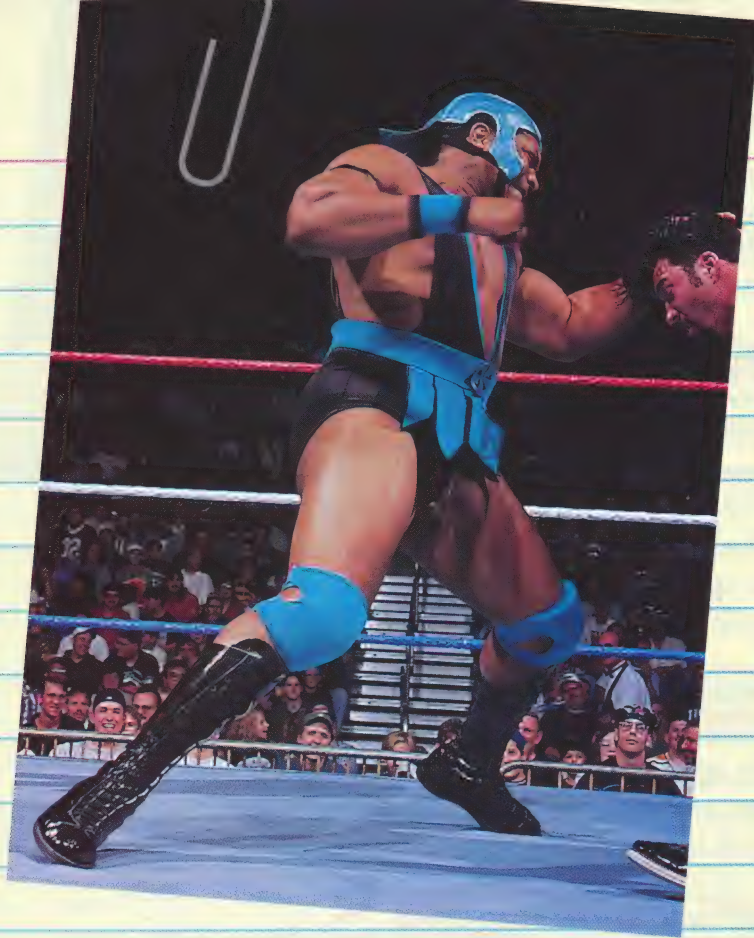
In a typical match, T.L. Hopper will have his opponent on the defensive—lifting him high and then crashing him against a bent knee or punishing him with a high back bodydrop. But moonsaults, flying headscissors and spinning back kicks are for other guys.

POWER:

C

T.L. Hopper is a large man, but he knows how to position his weight well for optimum effectiveness. What he may lack in other departments, he compensates for in surprising spurts of strength. Unfortunately, they're only in spurts.





FAAROOQ

FINISHER:

B⁺

Faarooq's angry attitude dominates a match. Then he'll twirl his foe upside down and smash the man's face into the mat. More often than not, the maneuver not only defeats the victim, but knocks him out.

TECHNICAL PROWESS:

A

Unlike many others on this list, Faarooq honed his skills as a main eventer in other territories before becoming a World Wrestling Federation rookie. He came into the World Wrestling Federation at the top of his technical game and he remains there.

POWER:

A

Faarooq is a mountain of muscle and a very beligerant one at that. What with his natural strength and the fury pumping through his veins, most rivals are quickly overwhelmed.

AGGRESSIVENESS:

A⁺

Faarooq's goal appears to be hurting his opponents. They're not just bodyslammed but power-

slammed. Rather than Samoan-dropping a man in the middle of the ring, Faarooq will do it from the turnbuckles. The World Wrestling Federation has seen hostile competitors before, but Faarooq channels his aggression flawlessly.

FORTITUDE:

A

Faarooq can withstand virtually any assault. Compare him to the World Wrestling Federation's numerous titleholders and Faarooq will match—possibly surpass—them in this department.

INTIMIDATION FACTOR:

A

This is one mean wrestler. He leaves the locker room with smoke practically shooting from his nostrils, and his opponents can't help but wonder whether they made the right choice in signing for the match.

OUTLOOK:

Faarooq came within an inch of snaring the World Wrestling Federation Intercontinental Championship, going to the tournament final against Marc Mero. Even without the belt, he's swiftly risen to the top of the World Wrestling Federation. Although his prior experience is a factor, because that experience was not in the World Wrestling Federation, he's a most gifted rookie.

FAAROOQ'S

OVERALL GRADE:

A

FEDERATION NEWCOMERS

**Are They Making
The Grade?**

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PRESENTS

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SLAMMY THIS!!

Let's get right to it and talk about all the buzz that's been lighting up the World Wrestling Federation of late. As a matter of fact, the topic has even somehow found a way to overshadow the birth of Lourdes—that's Madonna's new kid, for you idiots who don't read the papers. It's HUGE. It's the TALK OF THE TOWN. It's MY HAIRCUT!!!

True, I looked damn good before, but NEVER has the King of Harts looked so handsome. I mean, my phone hasn't stopped ringing since I was named *People Magazine's* Most Beautiful Male. Directors, agents, producers—they all want my services. Let's face it, my new "do" makes that Jennifer Aniston look like somebody just put a salad bowl over her head and began to cut away! And speaking of *Friends*, let the truth be known! They want me to replace David Schwimmer on that show. The executive producer has

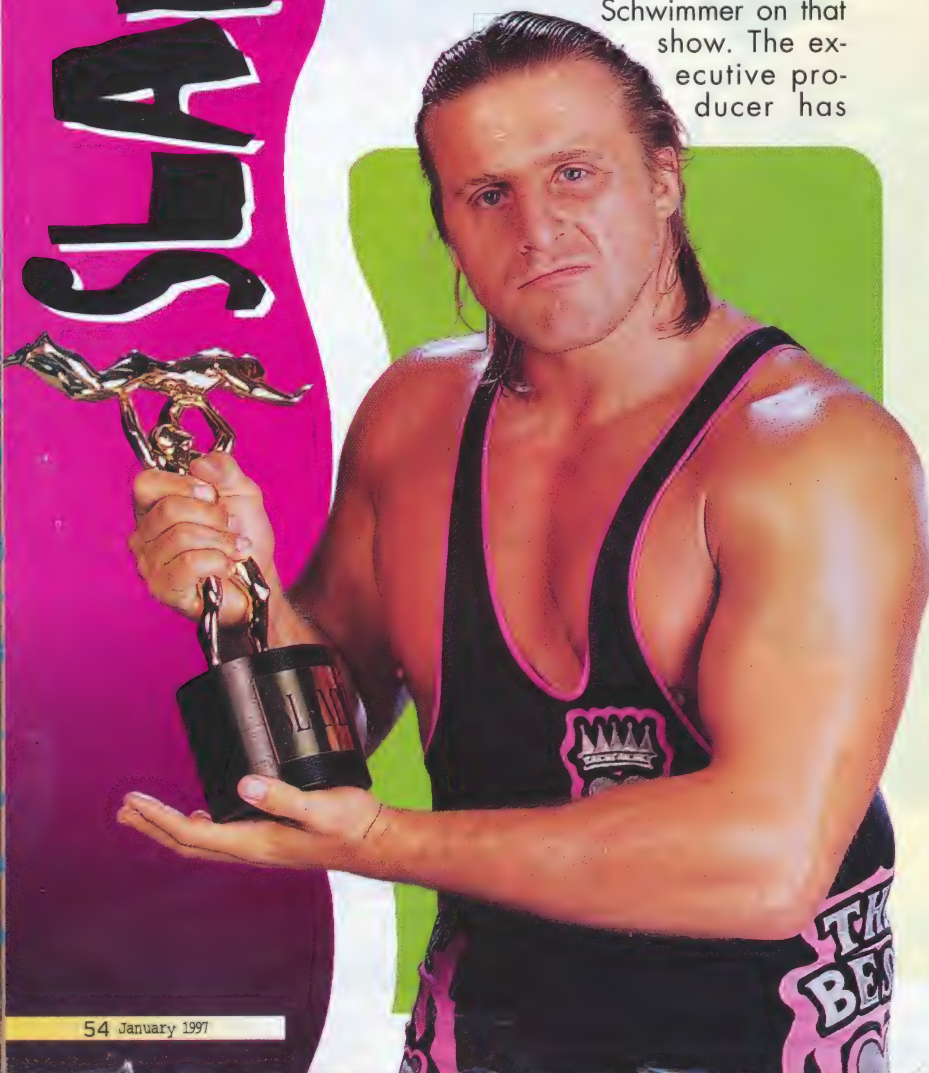
informed me that the ratings indicate that people are tired of looking at his HUGE nose!

But, that's enough about me—even though there can never be enough—let's talk about my brother Bret and his return to the World Wrestling Federation. I really don't understand what the big deal is. So, Bret decided to come back—BIG DEAL! The fans are making it out to be as big as Michael Jordan's return! Well, it's not! It's nowhere close! Remember Jordan left the NBA before he even peaked in his profession. For Bret, ever since I humiliated him at *WrestleMania X...* it was all downhill from there. He knows it and I know it! If you ask me, Bret is just coming back for the MONEY! Make no bones about it, he is probably the greediest person I know. Not many people know this, but one of the reasons my mom and dad don't come to many Federation events anymore is because they got tired of being scalped by Bret. If the ticket was \$20, he charged them \$30! He was pumping my parents dry!!!

And last but not least, I had to laugh when Bret said in his return speech on *Monday Night RAW* that he was coming back to face the best "wrestler" in the World Wrestling Federation—Stone Cold Steve Austin. With all due respect, while Steve Austin is indeed a great wrestler... I could wrestle circles around him! The only reason I don't challenge that punk right now is because at the moment Davey Boy and myself are focused on one thing, and one thing only—keeping these tag team belts around our waists! What belt has Steve Austin ever worn, besides the one that keeps his pants up?!

That, my friends, is the bottom line!

**SLAMMY THIS!
LATER!**



WF SLAMMY 1997 AWARDS

As a part of the *WrestleMania XIII* weekend, the World Wrestling Federation will honor its Superstars by presenting the prestigious "Slammy Awards" to those personalities who have been selected by *you*, the fans!

There will be nominees in such categories as "Superstar of the Year". All of the winners will be chosen by the fans, and here's all you have to do:

In the February issue of the *World Wrestling Federation Magazine* you will find a list of the "Slammy Award" categories and the names of the Superstars who have been nominated for each award. Then, either by using the ballot in the magazine or by calling the "Slammy" option on the WF "900" number or by voting conducted by means of the WF's site on America Online, **YOU** will determine the Slammy Award winners!



The World Wrestling Federation "Slammy Awards" will be presented at a gala banquet in Chicago, Illinois, during the *WrestleMania XIII* weekend. All the Superstars will be there! You can be there, too! Information on how you can attend the "Slammy Awards" will be announced in World Wrestling Federation television programming.

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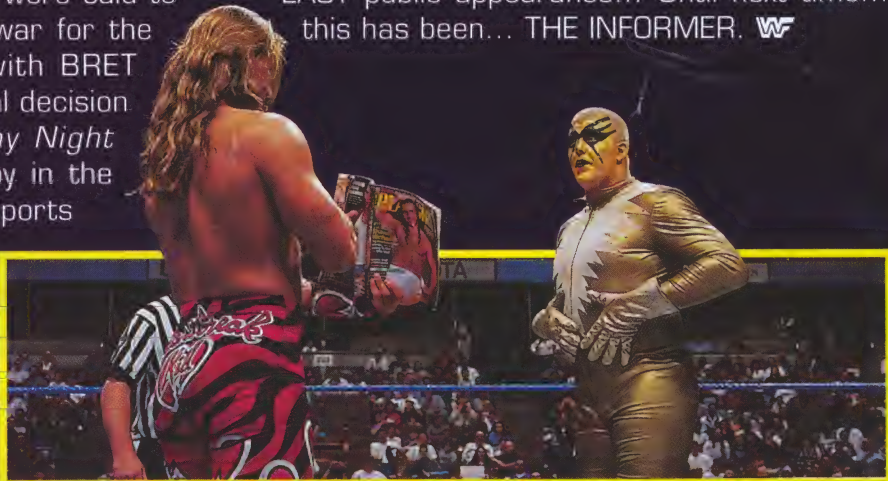
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THE INFORMER

It was the most intense moment in the history of the World Wrestling Federation, let alone *Monday Night RAW*... yet very few people realized it. Rumor had it that neither the Federation nor its closest competitor knew what BRET HART's decision was going to be regarding his future, until BRET let the world know LIVE on *Monday Night RAW* on October 21. Insiders recently informed me, the INFORMER, that in the weeks leading up to that nail-biting announcement, both promotions were said to be involved in a daily bidding war for the services of the HIT MAN, with BRET telling both parties that his final decision would come LIVE on *Monday Night RAW*! Were those tears of joy in the eyes of the Chairman of TitanSports after BRET made his historic announcement? You bet your sweet bippy they were!!!... Due to the re-injury suffered by "TIME BOMB" BRIAN PILLMAN at the hands of STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN, specialists have indicated that PILLMAN would "be lucky" to be able to return in time for *WrestleMania XIII*. "The injury is almost as serious as

the original and initial break," said a highly respected Federation doctor. "If MR. PILLMAN were indeed able to get in the ring by early March, it would be nothing short of a miracle of modern medicine!!!!... While on the subject of STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN, one tabloid recently stated that AUSTIN is second only to shock-jock HOWARD STERN, as far as the amount of fines levied against him by the Federal Communications Commission for his use of obscene language on public airwaves... "Rebel With A Cause" JIM ROSS has mentioned to me that he may bring in a former—and ALSO DISGRUNTLED—employee of Titan Sports to help him represent his growing client list of Federation superstars. Yes, this individual was indeed also fired, or "terminated", by none other than VINCE McMAHON... Here's a wild one!!! It seems that the Man They Call VADER recently got some kind of HOT when he was only seconds away from going out for a match but couldn't find his headgear. Evidently he hadn't misplaced it, but rather another Federation superstar chose to borrow it in order to "work" on his VADER impression. From what my sources tell me, JERRY "THE KING" LAWLER had to see a dentist when VADER finally discovered the missing muzzle, which was temporarily replacing the crown on LAWLER's head!... UNFORTUNATELY I don't believe that the guest appearance of BROTHER LOVE on ABC's *BOY MEETS WORLD*... was his LAST public appearance... Until next time... this has been... THE INFORMER. **W**



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Take a World Wrestling Federation adventure and try to win a prize!

6 The Ross Report

Jim Ross has all the news and behind the scenes info on Federation happenings!

1 World Wrestling Federation Trivia

Answer six consecutive Federation trivia questions correctly and win a prize!

4 Crowin' With Cornette

The gospel according to the walking blue light special...or so he would want you to believe!

7 French/Canadian Report with Ray Rougeau

The latest Federation news from the Great White North!

2 Daily Superstar Interview

Ray Rougeau interviews a different Federation Superstar every day!

5 Federation Challenge Game

Take on a Federation Superstar. If you emerge victorious, you'll win a prize!

8 Post Match Interviews

During every Federation pay-per-view event, hear comments from the winners and losers of the matches that take place!

PIN em DOWN

???

???



Dear Hunter Hearst-Helmsley,

Your hair is SO beautiful! What kind of shampoo do you use to keep it looking so soft and shiny?

Stacy Pierco
Jeannette, PA

Shampoo? Please! You think a purebred like me would stoop to such levels as to buy some convenience store bottle of glob? Maybe some common street trash like yourself would, but Triple-H? The truth is, salon professionals come from around the world on a daily basis to bathe my hair with the finest natural minerals in the world!



Dear Bob Backlund,

What brand of dictionary do you recommend to your highly educated fans out there?

Ryan Earnes
Lewe, DE

First of all, plebeian, you are to address me as... MISTER Bob Backlund! How can you have a dictionary if you can't even show the proper respect to a man of such magnitudinal demeanor and aptitude as myself? That is the trouble with all you young punks today! Defamatory standards are a mainstay in your hopelessly morally inverted lives!

Dear Leif Cassidy,

Have you ever thought of getting more in tune with the current musical world? Bands like the Monkees and the Bay City Rollers are LONG GONE, dude!

Daniel Boyd
Cincinnati, OH

Outrage! Sacrilege! LIES!! ALL OF THEM!! How can you say such a thing? The digitally remastered 8-track of *The Monkees Greatest Hits* is burning up the charts! And when the Bay City Rollers get back together, they are gonna WIPE OUT stupid musicians like Pearl Jam and Metallica!

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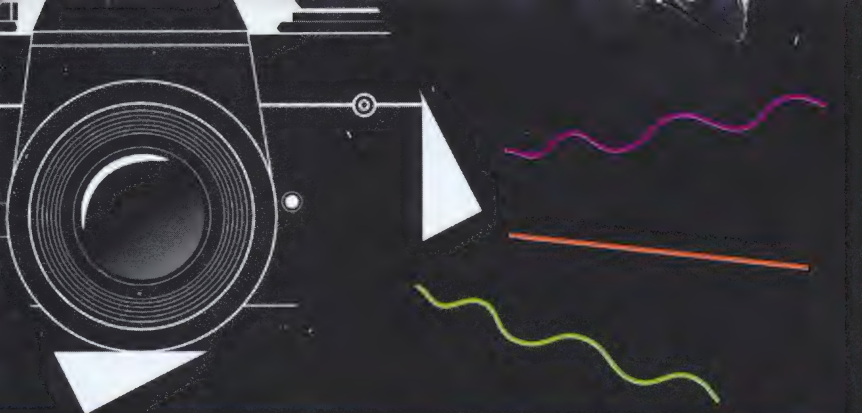
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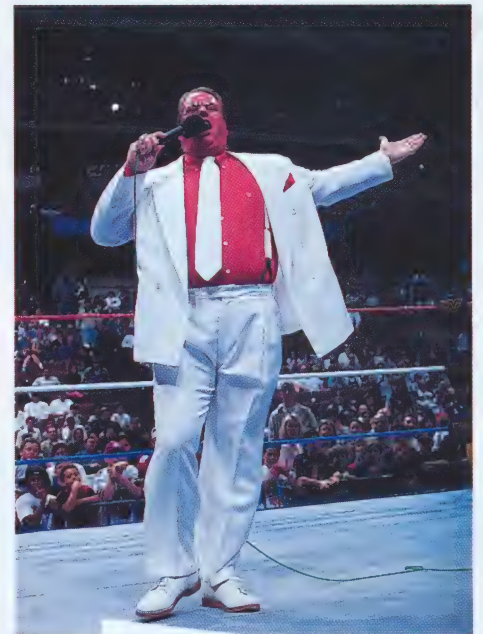
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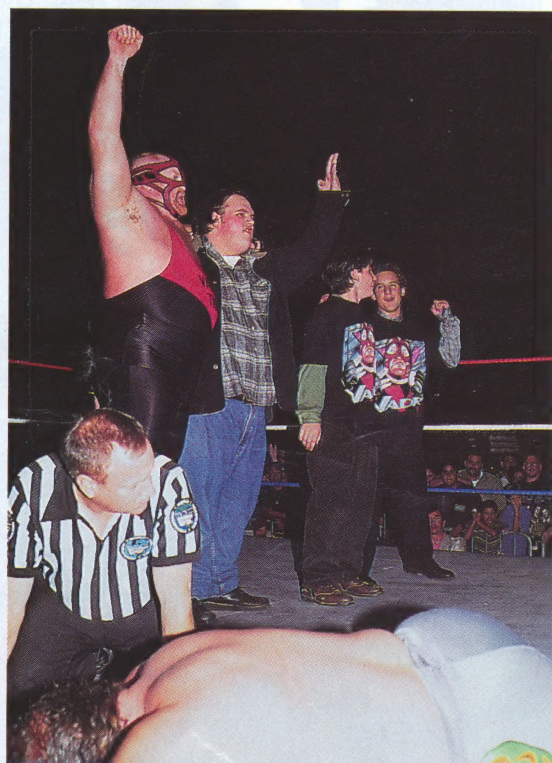
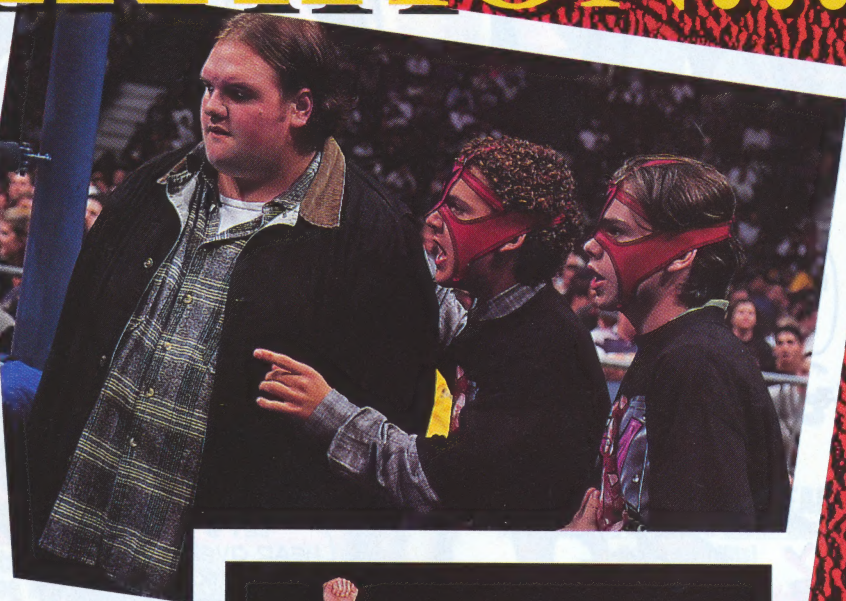
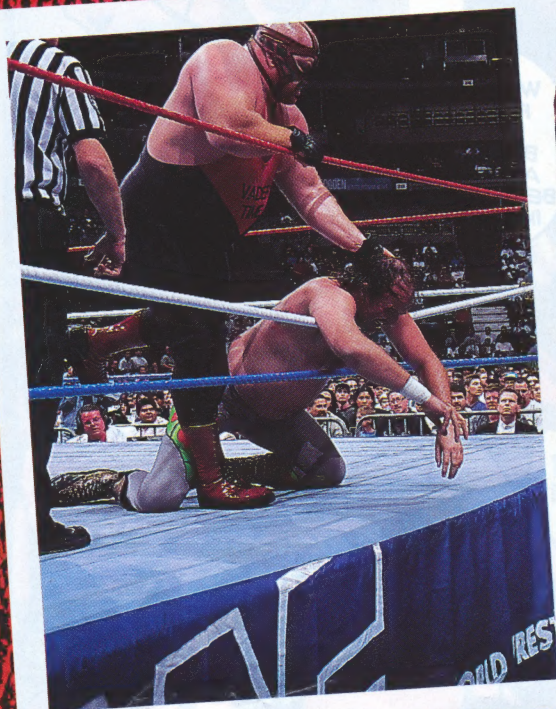
Could it be that the Man They Call Vader is now one of the World Wrestling Federation's most cheered superstars? Did he finally see the light and accept the advice of millions of Federation fans? Yes! A kind-hearted Vader is now on the loose... on the ABC hit television show *Boy Meets World*, that is!

This past November, the show decided Vader and some of the Federation's other superstars would be the perfect choices

for starring alongside the standouts of *Boy Meets World*. As many Federation fans saw, the Man from the Rocky Mountains had an uncharacteristic change of heart while the camera was rolling.

Corey (Ben Savage), the main character of *Boy Meets World*, helps his friend reunite with his estranged father (played by Vader). The boy and his friends decide the best place to get the two back together would be at the local arena where his

EETS WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION!!!



father is wrestling. Meanwhile, Corey's girlfriend is celebrating her "Sweet 16" birthday party in the same arena and it is up to Corey to juggle his time in both places without his girlfriend suspecting anything!

Also making guest appearances on the show were Jake "The Snake" Roberts—who was Vader's opponent for the tapping—and everyone's favorite evangelist, Brother Love!

SCOOP SULLIVAN

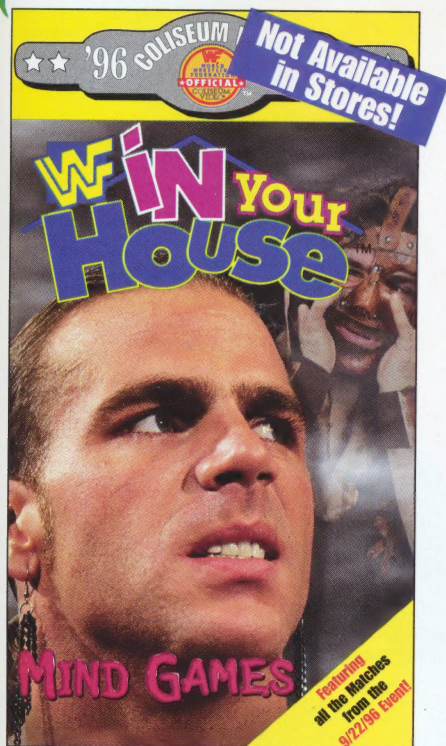
ARTIST HOWARD M. COLBERT
WRITER VINCE RUSSO

SQUARED CIRCLE SUPERHERO



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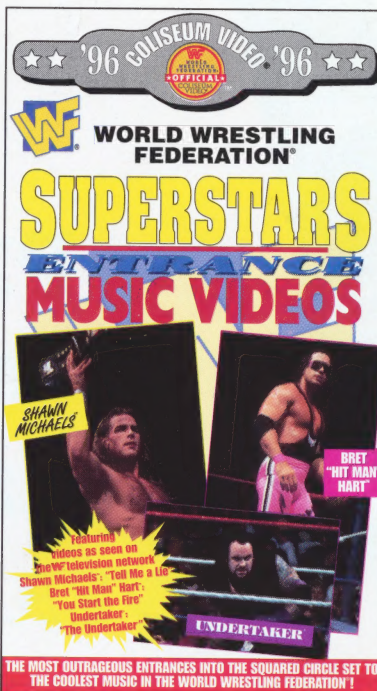
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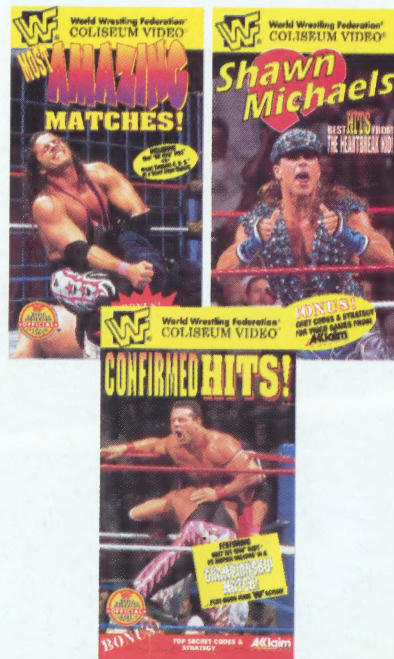
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